

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

5 Must-See Spring Art Exhibitions in San Francisco

By Meredith Mendelsohn

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With the opening of SFMOMA, the city's art world is buzzing with shows dedicated to Ansel Adams, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, and more

Those who don't think of San Francisco as a contemporary art town, might want to reconsider. While the city has long had a respectable contingent of first-rate dealers and a small but dynamic community of artists, the opening of SFMOMA's massively expanded building this spring is changing the game. The expansion not only enables the museum to show off far more of its stellar holdings (like the epic collection of Gap founders Donald and Doris Fisher), but it has lured some big names to the South of Market neighborhood. Gagosian Gallery expands its international empire with its first San Francisco outpost, right across from the museum, while longtime San Francisco dealer John Berggruen follows suit this fall. Meanwhile, dealers across the city's DoReiMi arts district, as it's now known, are gearing up for a heavy-hitting spring season with some not-to-be-missed shows.



Film Noir Staircase, 1989/2016, from *Looking for Langston* Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman Gallery

"Isaac Julien: Vintage" at Jessica Silverman

This is a rare opportunity to catch three bodies of work by the British photographer and filmmaker, including *Looking for Langston* (1989), which first brought Julien international renown. Set during the Harlem Renaissance, the film, an homage to poet Langston Hughes, looks at black and gay identity and desire, themes that also resurface in photos from his 1996 film *Trussed*. Stills from both films are on view, as well as photos from *The Long Road to Mazatlán* (2000), which turns attention to fantasies of the American West. *Through June 11; jessicasilvermangallery.com*

Jessica Silverman Gallery
488 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
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Photo: Courtesy of SFMOMA

Six New Exhibitions at SFMOMA

The city's temple to modern and contemporary reopens with a 235,000-square-foot expansion designed by Snøhetta, one of the art world's favorite architecture firms. Six exhibitions inaugurate the new space, including two shows to spotlight the Campaign for Art, gifts (and promised gifts) made by patrons. "California and the West" looks at the many lensmen (and women) seduced by the Golden State's various riches, from Ansel Adams's dramatic landscapes to Ed Ruscha's deadpan views of gas stations, storefronts, and apartment houses that define the early sprawl of mid-20th-century Los Angeles.

SFMOMA opens on May 14; exhibition closing dates vary; sfmoma.org



Mobile III, 1990, Roy Lichtenstein. Photo: Robert McKeever/Estate of Roy Lichtenstein/Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.

"Plane.Site" at Gagosian Gallery

The mega-dealer's newest addition—number 16, but who's counting?—opens right across from the expanded SFMOMA with a major multigenerational show exploring the connections between two and

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three dimensions. On view are drawings and sculptures by some of the best-known makers in modern history, including Richard Diebenkorn, Helen Frankenthaler, Alberto Giacometti, Jasper Johns, Pablo Picasso, Richard Serra, and Andy Warhol. *May 18 to August 27; gagosian.com*



Photo: Courtesy of Anthony Meier Fine Arts

“Teresita Fernández: Small American Fires” at Anthony Meier Fine Arts

Here, Fernández, known for her dramatic installations, looks at the many symbolic associations of fire throughout American history—the way Native Americans reshaped the landscape through slash-and-burn agriculture, for instance, and the collective memory of San Francisco’s early-20th-century infernos. A 12-foot-long glazed ceramic sculpture depicting flames is joined by an installation made of charred charcoal that leaves its trails along the gallery walls. *Through May 27; anthonymeierfinearts.com*



Photo: Courtesy of John Berggruen Gallery

“Bridget Riley: The Interactive Character of Color, 1970–2014” at John Berggruen Gallery

A master at juxtaposing colors to yield dramatically different effects, the British painter is best known for helping pioneer the Op Art movement with her quivering, mind-bending stripes and other geometric abstractions. This is Riley’s first major show in San Francisco and includes important works from various stages of her career. *Through June 30; berggruen.com*