

Galerie

Rebecca Manson: "8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows in February"

By Paul Laster

February 2, 2026



Installation view, "Rebecca Manson: Time, You Must Be Laughing, Jessica Silverman, San Francisco." Photo: Phillip Maisel.
Courtesy of Jessica Silverman.

Rounding up the top gallery exhibitions across the United States each month, Galerie traveled from the East Coast to the West Coast with a stop in the Midwest to showcase the best solo shows for February. From Gregor Hildebrandt's immersive installation of thousands of cut colored record tiles interpreting iconic stained-glass windows at Perrotin in New York and Lui Shtini's anthropomorphic sculptures and paintings that blur the lines between abstraction and figuration at Chicago's Corbett vs. Dempsey, to Rebecca Manson's sculptures of butterfly wings and flowers made of thousands of hand-shaped, glazed porcelain pieces at Jessica Silverman in San Francisco, these are the not-to-be-missed shows this month.

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Rebecca Manson, *Leaning Iris*, (c. 2022). Photo: Lance Brewer. Courtesy of the artist, Josh Lilley and Jessica Silverman.

8. Rebecca Manson | Jessica Silverman, San Francisco

Rebecca Manson is a Brooklyn-based sculptor celebrated for her large ceramic installations inspired by nature. Her primary medium is porcelain, which she uses to examine themes of embodiment, transformation, and the beauty of decay. She is renowned for creating massive sculptures of butterfly and moth wings made of thousands of hand-shaped, glazed porcelain pieces, designed to replicate the microscopic scales of real insect wings. This meticulous process is labor-intensive, sometimes involving up to 200,000 porcelain elements for a single piece. In collaboration with engineers, she has developed a flexible adhesive that enables her rigid porcelain structures to drape and function like textiles when displayed.

Following the gallery's announcement of its representation of the artist, her debut solo exhibition, "Time, You Must Be Laughing," is inspired by Joni Mitchell's 1975 song *Sweet Bird* and explores the dark humor inherent in impermanence. Featuring 13 sculptures mainly crafted from porcelain, the pieces depict oversized butterfly and moth wings, flowers, and a swing set. They examine the connections between bodies and nature, and how time acts as a force that transforms both. Seeing change as ongoing, she frames her work as a space where grief can be lifted, and nature's resilience offers hope. Balancing strength and vulnerability, her art shows that transformation—emotional, ecological, or material—is not just something to withstand but a place where new meaning emerges.

Through February 28

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