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Twelve Fall Exhibitions to Check Out in Boston and Beyond

Our Picks by BAR Editorial



Installation view of "vanessa german—THE RAREST BLACK WOMAN ON THE PLANET EARTH" at Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA, on view October 13, 2022–May 28, 2023. Photo by Laura Shea. Courtesy of Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.

Autumn may be nature's slowdown, but in Boston's museums and galleries, things are just starting to kick off. The students and institutions that help drive the life cycle of this city returned a little more than a month ago, and in that time we've seen a slew of great shows, with many more on the way. Here, you'll find twelve exhibitions you can catch now, from solo spotlights to group shows tackling topics ranging from the exuberance of childhood to the ramifications of incarceration.

Christie Neptune, "En Route Towards El Dorado: Deepened Relations and The Descent Back Home," Grant Wahlquist Gallery

Portland, ME

September 23–October 20, 2022



Installation view of "vanessa german—THE RAREST BLACK WOMAN ON THE PLANET EARTH" at Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA, on view October 13, 2022–May 28, 2023. Photo by Laura Shea. Courtesy of Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.

When vanessa german was invited to create a body of work around the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum—a collection of over 7,000 objects acquired throughout the lifetime of the wealthy silk trader who bequeathed the collection to Mount Holyoke College in 1946—emancipatory practices were on the artist's mind. Here, german went through the process of touching every single collection item, meditating on them, and transforming the history of these objects. All the while, she worked with students to collect objects, quotes, and stories that would inform a new body of what she calls "power figures," clad in everything from angel wings to pink quartz to household tchotchkes. german's work as a sculptor, performance artist, writer, and activist is often centered around Black healing through community empowerment. At Mount Holyoke (which, by the way, is right on the way from Boston to MASS MoCA and absolutely worth the stop), german's charming personality shines through a new video piece while tenderness and healing are present throughout every sculpture.

—Jameson Johnson

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