

# GLADSTONE

Hrag Vartanian, "Six New York City Art Shows to See Right Now,"  
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## HYPERALLERGIC

### Six New York City Art Shows to See Right Now

As mid-October rolls around we're enjoying some serious and not-so-serious art by Carrie Mae Weems, Mala Iqbal, Lady Shalamar Montague, and others.

Natalie Haddad, Hrag Vartanian and Hakim Bishara



A visitor to the Whitney Museum of American Art walks by Manoucher Yektai's "Untitled" (1961) in the permanent collection exhibition. (photo Hrag Vartanian/*Hyperallergic*)

As mid-October rolls around, the chill in the air signals the season of somber reflection. There's much to consider in the world right now, and little to inspire joy. Among our favorite shows of the moment, immersive installations by Carrie Mae Weems and Miatta Kawinzi don't shy away from serious subject matter but they offer meaningful perspectives and, ideally, a sense of solace. Meanwhile, painters Mala Iqbal, Jon Serl, and Manoucher Yektai invite us to lose ourselves in color, gesture, and other worlds. And Lady Shalamar Montague reminds us that glitter still exists even in the midst of doom. —Natalie Haddad, Reviews Editor

## Carrie Mae Weems: The Shape of Things

[Gladstone Gallery](#), 530 West 21st Street, Chelsea, Manhattan Through November 9



Installation view of Carrie Mae Weems's "Cyclorama: The Shape of Things" (2021) (photo Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)

This giant of contemporary art is showing her "Cyclorama: The Shape of Things" (2021), which premiered at the Park Avenue Armory in 2021, and has been touring museums ever since. Using the popular artistic form of the cyclorama (an early-[19th century version](#) of one is on permanent display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art), Weems distills scenes of racial injustice. This immersive experience equally repels and attracts in what feels like a very American cycle of spectacle on display. The 40-minute video in seven parts reflects on the browning of America, sometimes offering us moments that feel as conflicted as they can seem beautiful on the screen.

In adjacent gallery spaces, her *Painting the Town* (2021) series turns what street photographers often call [Street Rothkos](#) into images of erasure of the anti-racist graffiti that filled American streets after the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.

What makes Weems's art particularly poignant is her refusal to be didactic. Instead, she prefers to open spaces and allows us to fill them with our own cultural imagination. —*Hrag Vartanian*