

HYPERALLERGIC

10 Exhibitions to See in Upstate New York This March

This month: Sean Hemmerle, Nell Brookfield, Meg Webster, a show dedicated to books, and more.

Taliesin Thomas February 28, 2024



Nell Brookfield, "Spill" (2020), pastel and pigment on paper, 50 x 37 inches (image courtesy September Gallery)

The often-moody month of March welcomes longer days and a hint of spring elation to come, inspiring renewed energy for encountering art around the Hudson Valley in Upstate New York. This month, a host of intellectually fiery exhibitions indicate that spring fever is on the horizon. A pair of exhibitions at September Gallery in Kinderhook and one at Turley Gallery in Hudson

provide playful visions of female agency and lighthearted considerations of dissolving worlds, respectively. An evolving installation by artist-in-residence Jean-Marc Superville Sovak at Ann Street Gallery in Newburgh addresses the painful history of the city’s “Colored Burial Ground,” while Sean Hemmerle’s series of stoic photographs of empty basketball courts at Front Room Gallery in Hudson invite hope that they’ll be filled. And whereas Will Hutnick’s glitchy paintings at Geary Contemporary in Millerton explore atypical temporalities, Taj Campman’s abstract works at Distortion Society in Beacon are distinctly grounded. In ancient Roman history, March was a turning point that marked an irreversible change of fate — let us revel in this month’s latent powers, and seek artistic destinies that motivate and modify our sensibilities!



Melissa Monroe, “Inner Child Waiting for you to be all That you can Reach” (2021), tufted yarn, mixed acrylic and wool, 50 x 55 x 2 inches (photo by Alon Koppel Photography, courtesy the artist and September Gallery)

Nell Brookfield: *Humans of course are animals* and *In the pale moonlight*

This month, September Gallery in Kinderhook presents two “overlapping” exhibitions that celebrate female pleasure and play. *Humans of course are animals* is a solo show of bright,

psychological paintings and drawings — with a touch of surrealist magic — by United Kingdom-based Nell Brookfield, while the group show *In the pale moonlight* includes a range of entertaining works on paper, paintings, fabric works, as well as a video by 10 women artists, that unabashedly revel in fun. Prime examples are Sarah Lee’s “A puppy’s first birthday tea” (2021), a spiritualist-inflected painting depicting the titular scene, and Allyson Mellberg-Taylor’s “We Can All Learn To Be Still” (2024), which features a splayed-out woman with a cat resting on her back as three yellow snails slither around. Taken together, both shows conjure flirtatious visions of frolicking via themes such as self-love, existential pondering, and cheeky adoration among friends and animals.