

HYPERALLERGIC

10 Art Shows to See in Upstate New York This September

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Reginald Madison, "The Dance Lesson" (1980), oil on salvaged panels (photo courtesy September)

The late Reginald Madison, a self-taught artist from the South Side of Chicago, was a pillar of the Black Arts Movement in the 1960s and '70s. A youth spent surrounded by jazz musicians, and the discovery of a discarded box of paints, inspired his lifelong devotion to painting. September's survey *New Slant Old Story* brings together some of Madison's earliest works, many shown for the first time. Several portraits of nuns reflect the beginnings of his mature expressionistic style, including "Sister Veronica Marie" (1988) and "Choir Boys" (1992), featuring a nun between two exaggerated yellow figures that appear to be in the middle of belting out hymns. "Rude Nude Voodoo" (1979) is a curious scene with two demons engaging each other within hazy crimson environs, one with a pronounced erection. "The Dance Lesson" (1980), painted on salvaged panels, is a wild display that includes nuns cavorting with semi-nude figures with flames below, a devilish creature at the top, and angels flanking the spectacle on all sides.