

Nina Katchadourian

San Francisco Chronicle

10 fall 2017 exhibitions not to be missed

By Charles Desmarais

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Photo: Courtesy Catharine Clark Gallery

IMAGE 10 OF 10

Nina Katchadourian, "Lavatory Self-Portrait in the Flemish Style #12" (from Seat Assignment project, 2010-ongoing)

With the dramatic increase in visual arts offerings in the Bay Area since last year's spate of exhibition space openings and reimaginings, I'm hard-pressed to limit my list of exciting

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offerings this fall to a mere 10. In less than two years, we have seen the exponential growth of significant museum operations (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis), the opening of at least 20 new and revamped commercial galleries of substance, and a seeming explosion of activity at stalwart institutions like the de Young Museum, Legion of Honor, Asian Museum, Contemporary Jewish Museum and elsewhere. What follows is a mix of events that are certain to demand our attention and some perhaps off-the-radar things we should keep an eye on.

FALL ARTS 2017

Bay Area arts and entertainment venues' fall lineup

“Walker Evans”: SFMOMA’s new-ish senior curator of photography, Clément Chéroux, was **appointed in June 2016**. But he didn’t arrive at his new desk from the Centre Pompidou in Paris until early this year. He’s been working on his magnum opus: a show of more than 300 vintage prints by the great master of the medium, made over a 50-year career (1920-1970), supplemented by another 100 paintings, ephemera and objects from the artist’s collection. Sept. 30-Feb. 4. \$19-\$25. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. (415) 357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

If you like, San Francisco is one of the best cities in the country to search out the art of photography. The free — but appointment-only — Pier 24 Photography is always worth a visit. <http://pier24.org>

“Robert Rauschenberg: Erasing the Rules”: Organized by the Tate, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and SFMOMA, the Rauschenberg show is a not-to-be-missed survey of the career of one of the most influential artists of the latter half of the 20th century. Nov. 18-March 25. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. (415) 357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

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“Nina Katchadourian: Curiouser”: Humor, in short supply at any time in the self-serious art world, is the balm we might most need in a scary time of nuclear threats and racist thuggery. Katchadourian, a New York artist who hails originally from Stanford, often concocts a rare blend of conceptual clarity and wry wit in her work, which should put this midcareer retrospective high on your fall viewing list. Sept. 15-Jan. 7. Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Free. (650) 723-

4177. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

“This Is Not a Selfie: Photographic Self-Portraits from the Audrey and Sydney Irmans Collection”

: This exhibition promises to be a good sampling of its topic. Drawn from the photography holdings of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the survey includes 66 images by major artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Aug. 25-Jan. 14. \$8-\$10. San Jose Museum of Art, 110 South Market St., San Jose. (408) 271-6840. <http://sjmusart.org>

“An Idea of a Boundary”: Where does “we” end and “they” begin? Amid all the political discussion of borders and walls, artists Patricia L. Boyd, A.K. Burns, Mildred Howard, Hannah Ireland, Dionne Lee, Park McArthur, Gina Osterloh, Davina Semo and Nicole Wermers take up larger questions of the metes and bounds of our lives in an exhibition organized by Jackie Im. That’s a formidable combo if ever there was one. Sept. 22-Jan. 20. Free. San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., Suite 126, S.F. (415) 252-2255. www.sfartscommission.org

“Klimt and Rodin: An Artistic Encounter”: The opportunity to see a sizable selection of works by the Austrian symbolist painter Gustav Klimt is rare anywhere; in California, it is unprecedented. The Legion of Honor will juxtapose 36 works, including 15 paintings, with pieces from its extensive collection of sculpture by Auguste Rodin. The Legion is marking the centenary of Rodin’s death this year; 2018 marks 100 years since the death of Klimt. Oct. 14-Jan. 28. \$30. Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave., S.F. (415) 750-3600. <http://legionofhonor.famsf.org>

“Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire”: Organized in collaboration with Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, “Teotihuacan” promises a wide selection of

art and artifacts, including new discoveries, from the grandest of Mexico's pre-Columbian cities. Sept. 30-Feb. 11. \$13-\$28. De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, S.F. (415) 750-3600. <http://deyoung.famsf.org>

“Sanctuary”: The nonprofit For-Site Foundation has brought several site-specific art projects to the Bay Area, including the wildly popular 2014 installation “@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz.” For-Site’s partner in this fall’s offering is the equally innovative Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture, which recently presented a heartrending survey of works by the French artist Sophie Calle. “Sanctuary,” a timely theme if ever there was one, will showcase 36 “contemporary prayer rugs” commissioned especially for the show and installed in the old fort’s historic chapel. Oct. 7-March 11. Free. Fort Mason Chapel, Upper Fort Mason, Franklin and Bay streets, S.F. (415) 345-7575. www.for-site.org

“Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times”: It seems that every artist these days feels compelled to respond somehow to the political environment in which we find ourselves. Institutions engaged with progressive art have little choice but to respond to the responses. The Napa contemporary art center di Rosa, until now known primarily for its deep collection of Bay Area art of past decades, has announced a robust new program of “artist-driven,” socially engaged art of the moment. Part One of the ongoing series will feature Ala Ebtakar, Rigo 23 and Allison Smith. Nov. 4-May 27. \$5. Di Rosa, 5200 Sonoma (Carneros) Highway, Napa. (707) 226-5991. www.dirosaart.org

Headlands Commons: Last on this list but certainly not least in significance, the Commons is not a temporary exhibition but a permanent infrastructure upgrade that is also a collection of works of art. Headlands Center for the Arts is far too little-known by those who have not had occasion to use its extraordinary service to artists as a residential retreat and work space. But a parade of more than 1,400 individuals — including many of the most prominent artists working today — has made it work and exchanged ideas in the idyllic setting it has provided over the past 35 years. There's a small public component, too, that Headlands seeks to expand with the \$1.8 million Commons project. That will add some 3,000 square feet of new outdoor programming space and several new permanent works. Ongoing, with a free grand opening party and art event Sept. 17, 12-5 p.m. Free. Headlands Center for the Arts, 944 Simmonds Road, Sausalito. (415) 331-2787. www.headlands.org

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