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The New York Gallery Shows Not to Miss During Armory Week

These exhibitions, spanning museum-level presentations of works by Lynda Benglis and Alfredo Jaar, ambitious gallery debuts and digital experimentation, are worth making time for.

By Elisa Carollo



After the art world's all-too-brief summer break, New York is back in business with a packed slate of major exhibitions kicking off the fall season. This year, *The Armory Show* has been pushed to the end of the month, from September 24-27, avoiding the usual overlap with *Frieze Seoul*—an unsurprising bit of coordination now that the two fairs sit within the same portfolio.

The change will spare many international dealers the frantic stretch between the two regions and scenes, though several galleries are opening shows at the beginning of the month, creating early momentum around what has long been one of the calendar's most important slots, typically reserved for the strongest artists. As usual, there will be plenty worth seeing in Chelsea, Tribeca, the Lower East Side and what remains of the Upper East Side gallery scene. To help you navigate the sprawl, Observer has compiled our usual list of the best Armory adjacent exhibitions in New York.



Installation view: Maia Cruz Palileo's "The World Tangled in You" at David Kordansky. Courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery

Maia Cruz Palileo, "The World Tangled in You"

David Kordansky Gallery

Through October 24, 2026

Marking their New York solo debut with the gallery, following a 2025 Los Angeles exhibition, "The World Tangled in You" finds Cruz Palileo fully engaging with the complex legacies and material possibilities of painting, as well as an increasingly expansive understanding of how family and personal narratives, geopolitical histories and formal expression intersect. With lush brushstrokes and tropical colors, Cruz Palileo's work draws directly from both familial and historical archives, reconstructing and reviving an archival, geological and spiritual topography of the Philippines—their family's homeland—while also tracing the migratory routes that brought them to the United States. This fascinating entanglement of ancestry, flora and fauna transports the subjects of Cruz Palileo's paintings into a more imaginative and symbolic realm, one dense with animistic spirituality and animated by the same primordial energies sparked by a profound connection to the land. Drawing the exhibition's title from a poem by Shirley Ancheta, these new works are both an homage to painting's power to reactivate erased stories and histories and a means of confronting the stark realities of the past.
