

Galerie

ART & CULTURE

8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows in October

From Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's surreal, symbolic drawings and sculptural paper installations to Keith Sonnier's early experiments with neon and argon for his innovative light sculptures

BY PAUL LASTER
OCTOBER 2, 2026



Installation view, "John Baldessari: Sculptures," at Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles.
Photo: Robert Wedemeyer. Courtesy of Sprüth Magers.

Rounding up the best gallery exhibitions across the United States each month, *Galerie* journeyed from New York and Chicago to Los Angeles to highlight the top solo shows for October. From Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's surreal, symbolic drawings and sculptural paper installations at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery in New York and Clotilde Jiménez's layered mixed-media collages exploring his personal experiences and complex family

history at Marianne Ibrahim in Chicago to Keith Sonnier's early experiments with neon and argon for his innovative light sculptures at David Kordansky Gallery in Los Angeles, these are the not-to-be-missed shows this month.



Keith Sonnier, *Arced Neon (Violet)*, (1968).
Photo: Phoebe d'Heurle. © 2026 Keith Sonnier / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.
Courtesy the Estate of Keith Sonnier and David Kordansky Gallery

8. Keith Sonnier | David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles

A pioneering American post-Minimalist sculptor and light artist, Keith Sonnier transformed contemporary sculpture by treating light as a standalone physical medium. He gained recognition in the late-1960s New York art scene and became internationally famous for innovative neon sculptures that skillfully integrated color, form, and the surrounding architecture. By bending glass tubes to resemble his copper-wire layouts, he used neon to symbolically draw three-dimensional shapes in open space. Sonnier, who died in 2020 at age 78, was not only involved with light but also an early experimenter in performance and video art, producing significant multimedia works.

The gallery's second solo exhibition for the artist, titled "Inside Light, 1968 – 1970," showcases Sonnier's early experiments with neon and argon, marking the start of his ongoing exploration of innovative technologies and materials. The entrancing exhibition spans three years, from 1968 to 1970, during which Sonnier began experimenting with incandescent gas and achieved breakthroughs that shaped his career. He showed an early fascination with unconventional materials that were unstable, malleable, and suited for radical spatial experiments. The various neon sculptures presented in the show—works such as *Arced Neon (Violet)* from 1968—expanded on that exploration and have since become hallmarks of his work.

Through October 24