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CRITICS' PICKS

CURRENT PAST

New York

- · Alice Tippit
- "It's Not Your Nature"
- "The Highs of Everyday Life"
- Joseph Geagan
- Meriem Bennani
- · "I Am Silver"
- Anna and Bernhard Blume
- Xaviera Simmons
- · "The Female Gaze, Part Two: Women Look at Men*
- Sasha Rudensky
- · Nan Goldin
- Roberto Burle Marx
- · Larry Walker
- Sam Lewitt
- · Anna Sew Hoy
- "Mirror Cells"
- · Hilton Als

Los Angeles

- Patrick Jackson
- * "Everybody! Come Stand on the Altar!"
- · Ren Hang
- · Carl Cheng
- · Sam Gilliam

San Francisco

- "The Grace Jones Project*
- Richard T Walker
- "New Material"
- Laura Owens

New York

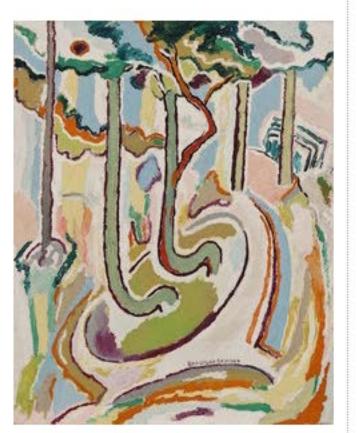
"It's Not Your Nature"

MICHAEL ROSENFELD GALLERY 100 Eleventh Avenue June 2-August 5

Summer shows can feel like that other seasonal occurrence. the stoop or yard sale. "It's Not Your Nature" is a hodgepodge of art under a vague sign. But when you're dealing with Lee Krasner, Harry Bertoia, and Norman Lewis-and when your view is Fairfield Porter's, across the barrier islands in Maineit's compelling stuff to sift through. It's also a rare chance outside of a museum to see so many modern American masters up close and personal.

The show's title is a confusing pun, as the pieces seem very much in the nature of the twenty-two artists on display and incorporate an expansive conception—whether petroglyph, bird, branch, or sky-of what one thinks of when it comes to the natural world.

But it's the work that matters, and there are wonders. Lenore Tawney, a fiber-arts pioneer who was a confidant and studio neighbor of Agnes Martin at Coenties Slip in New York, is represented here by a stunning unraveling of Minimalist line, Arbor #1, ca. 1960: a profusion of golden flowers that climb up rambling vines of wool, linen, and silk open-warp weaving. In delightful directional counterpoint, Hale Woodruff's painting Landscape with Fallen Star, 1979, hangs next to it. Another



Beauford Delaney, Untitled (Trees), ca.1945, oil on canvas, 29 x 23".

strong cluster includes a knockout small Joan Mitchell, Untitled, ca. 1967, that carries in its blue-green abstraction the tonic viridity of two adjacent works: Beauford Delaney's Untitled (Trees), ca. 1945, and Alma Thomas's Lake Reflecting Advent of Spring, 1973. Depending on your nature, you'll find your own treasures.

— Prudence Peiffer







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