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The 10 Gallery Shows You Need to Pay Attention to This Fall

Surprise! None of them include colorful, abstract paintings.

by James Tarmy
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There have been persistent murmurs in the art world about the imminent (market) demise of the so-called Zombie Formalism movement, a kind of colorful, undemanding type of abstract painting that's commanded astronomical prices for the past few years. Dire predictions and a few disappointing auction results aside, the evidence is hardly overwhelming.

And yet, looking ahead to the fall's most anticipated openings, there appears to be a preponderance of shows that feature gallerywide installations, immersive video art, and site-specific objects, most of which are about as living-room-wall-friendly as a grenade.

"It seems painting is not the medium of choice at the moment, especially abstraction," says art adviser Eleanor Cayre. "A lot of people are starting to take video more seriously."

The following, culled from around the globe, is a list of the most hotly anticipated shows where there isn't a single decorative canvas in sight.



Installation view, Kathryn Andrews, "Trinity and Powers: In Search of Breadfruit," Gladstone Gallery, Brussels

Andrews, who is based in L.A., tends toward a bright, pop-y aesthetic that grapples with consumer culture, Hollywood, and, occasionally, politics. This installation includes polished gumball machines with nude Tahitian women stamped on every piece of gum, and lounge chairs covered in beach umbrellas that have been sharpened into spears.