New York’s best public art installations this season

Get outside to check out some of the best art in New York City this fall

By Ameena Walker and Valeria Ricciulli  Updated Sep 5, 2019, 11:56am EDT

Fall is almost here, and with that comes the arrival of dozens of new temporary public art installations, which enliven the urban landscape with abstract pieces, selfie-worthy moments, and more.

Here, we’ve collected more than a dozen worth scouting in the next few months; as more cool projects come to light, we’ll update the map—and as always, if you know of anything that we may have missed, let us know in the comments.

1. Carmen Herrera: “Estructuras Monumentales”

In City Hall Park, Cuban-born artist Carmen Herrera presents “Estructuras Monumentales,” a set of large-scale monochromatic sculptures that “create a distinctive and iconic clarity by emphasizing what she sees as ‘the beauty of the straight line,’” according to the installation description. Curated by the Public Art Fund, the installation will be on view until November 8, 2019.

2. Leonardo Drew: “City in the Grass”

On view in Madison Square Park until December 15, “City in the Grass” by Leonardo Drew is a more than 100-foot-long installation featuring a view of an abstract cityscape on top of a patterned surface that resembles Persian carpet design. The installation invites visitor to walk on its surface and brings together “domestic and urban motifs” that reflect
the artist’s interest in global design and East Asian decorative traditions, the description says.


“Brick House” by artist Simone Leigh, on view at The High Line’s Spur, features a 16-foot-tall bronze bust of a Black woman. The bust, “a combination of the forms of a skirt and a clay house,” the installation’s description reads, is part of Leigh’s “Anatomy of Architecture” series that merges architectural forms from different regions of the world with the human body. The sculpture will be on view until September 30, 2020.

4. Nicolas Holiber: “Birds on Broadway, the Audubon Sculpture Project”

On view along Broadway from 64th Street to 157th Street, Holiber’s installation features 10 sculptures of NYC birds in danger of extinction. The sculptures are made of reclaimed and untreated lumber, allowing natural forces to affect them and “highlight the environmental challenges faced by each species,” per the installation description. Some of the species featured include the peregrine falcon, scarlet tanager, snowy owl, and wood duck.
“La Flor De Mi Madre,” by artist Naomi Lawrence at Eugene McCabe Field in East Harlem, features three large crocheted flowers made of acrylic yarn, as well as smaller ones made in collaboration with neighborhood artists. The flowers represent East Harlem’s diversity, including a pink dahlia representing Mexico, a yellow Christmas orchid representing Colombia, a red hibiscus representing Puerto Rico, impala lilies representing Ghana, lush pink bayahibe representing the Dominican Republic, and white frangipani representing the Ivory Coast. The installation will be on view until June 25, 2020.
6. Chat Travieso: “The Boogie Down (Youth) Booth”
1405 Jerome Ave
The Bronx, NY 10452
(212) 639-9675
Visit Website

On view until May 31, 2020, “The Boogie Down (Youth) Booth” by artist Chat Travieso is located in Keltch Park, on 170th Street and Jerome Avenue. The artist was inspired by the Yes Loitering Project, an initiative that researched how teenagers might be excluded from public spaces and ways to create more spaces for them. The installation features a seating area, solar-powered lights, and speakers that stream music continuously, honoring “the sounds of the borough,” such as salsa, jazz, Afro-Caribbean rhythms, blues, hip-hop, and Garifuna.

Chat Travieso, “The Boogie Down (Youth) Booth”, courtesy of the artist and NYC Parks.

7. Rafael Domenech, “Las Palabras son Muros [Pavilion for Astoria]”
32-01 Vernon Blvd
Long Island City, NY 11106
(718) 956-1819
Visit Website

In Socrates Sculpture Park, “Las Palabras son Muros [Pavilion for Astoria]” by artist Rafael Domenech is a collectively authored sculptural book project. The piece features
two semicircular towers made with scaffolding and construction mesh, “provisional materials emblematic of the changing urban landscape,” the description reads. There are mesh “pages” hanging from the scaffolding with texts that will rotate during the exhibition. Visitors can submit their own texts or stories through the exhibition’s website for inclusion in the installation (texts are selected through a digital algorithm).

Photo by Scott Lynch, courtesy of Socrates Sculpture Park

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8. Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong & Dev Harlan: “POOLTIME”

“POOLTIME,” by artists Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong and Dev Harlan honors the now-defunct Aquacade, an aquatic amphitheater built for the 1939 World’s Fair. That space was a community hub “even decades after many of the other World’s Fair attractions had fallen into decay and disuse,” the description reads. Located at the north end of Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, the installation recreates the experience of being under the water of a pool. On view until June 8, 2020, the installation is part of a larger programming initiative centered around the park as a site for the 1939 and 1964 World Fairs.
9. Jose Carlos Casado, Community: “You never really know your own language until you study another”

150-29 Jamaica Ave
Jamaica, NY 11435

An interactive exhibition that includes an augmented reality app (designed by artist Jose Carlos Casado), this installation features posters, similar to those made for protests, with abstractions of 10 community volunteers’s hands. Casado captured images of their palms and ran them through a 3D imaging software. The volunteers are also painted on the side of each structure. This installation will be on view until April 5, 2020.
10. **Roberto Visani: “(x) of many children”**

670 Lafayette Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Roberto Visani’s installation features two figures leaning against each other, representing support. It was inspired by sculptures of the Senufo people of West Africa, as well the African people’s forced migration and relocation to the Americas. The installation will be on view until October 5.

![Roberto Visani's installation](NYC Parks)

11. **Harold Ancart: “Subliminal Standard”**

Cadman Plaza E
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Also on view until 2020, Belgian-born artist Harold Ancart created a painted concrete sculpture inspired by New York City’s handball courts. “Popularized by early 20th century immigrants to the United States, handball is among the most democratic sports, requiring nothing more than a small ball and a wall to play,” the Public Art Fund installation description reads.
12. Fitzhugh Karol: “Field’s Jax IV”
York St. Between Adams Street and, Pearl St
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(212) 639-9675
Visit Website

Brooklyn-based sculptor Fitzhugh Karol created “Field’s Jax,” a series of four installations placed around Dumbo, out of recycled steel. Karol challenges viewers to look for the next one and explore the neighborhood. It will be on view until April 28, 2020.

13. Siah Armajani: “Bridge Over Tree”
1 Water St
Brooklyn, NY 11201
On view until September 29 on Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Empire Fulton Ferry Lawn, “Bridge Over Tree” challenges the concept of bridges “in a world of walls and barriers,” according to the Public Art Fund, which curated the installation. Created by Iranian-born artist Siah Armajani, the piece was recreated from its original version shown in Minneapolis in 1970. The bridge features a tree in the middle, under a sharp rise and fall of its two sides.

Timothy Schenck, Courtesy of Public Art Fund, NY

Link: https://ny.curbed.com/maps/best-public-art-installations-new-york-city