

Paddy Johnson, "Pop Erotica and 8 Centuries of Fantasy: NYC's Fall Gallery Season Is Its Best in Years,"
Observer, September 20, 2018.

OBSERVER

Pop Erotica and 8 Centuries of Fantasy: NYC's Fall Gallery Season Is Its Best in Years

By [Paddy Johnson](#) • 09/20/18 12:43pm

With recent reports of stagnant to slow arts industry growth and a shift to nearly 50 percent of all sales coming from fairs (costly ventures themselves to take part in), art galleries are going to need more than just a reduction in renting space at those fairs to stay afloat. One strategy is simply to reduce their reliance on the events in general by launching higher caliber exhibitions that can't be produced in cramped, temporary booths. Luring the collectors in with museum quality shows seems to be a very new tactic on the part of dealers.

As if on cue, Chelsea galleries (and museums too, for that matter) have given us a better fall season than we've seen in years. In fact, there's so much good work on view, I actually found myself wondering how I was going to list it all. That's not a bad problem to have, but it gives gallery goers even more ground to cover than usual. Time to get to it. Here's the best of New York's fall 2018 gallery season.

Petzel

Paddy Johnson, "Pop Erotica and 8 Centuries of Fantasy: NYC's Fall Gallery Season Is Its Best in Years," *Observer*, September 20, 2018.



Charline von Heyl, *Mana Hatta*, 2017. Petzel

Petzel, Charline Von Heyl

Charline von Heyl's 17 tensely dramatic paintings at Petzel demonstrate a similar dedication to invention. Nobody understands paint, composition and pattern as well as von Heyl, and this exhibition of abstract work makes that assertion definitive. In one painting she skillfully balances a bold black form stretching across two ends of her stretcher with delicate bengay dots. In another, an angular patchwork of blackened lines serves as scaffold for swooshing shapes filled with pink and blue paint. While von Heyl renders largely static forms, the works often allude to an abstract narrative that implies action of some kind. Titles reinforce this—*Poetry Machine #1*, *Dub* and *5 Signs of Disturbance*.

<https://observer.com/2018/09/nyc-fall-2018-gallery-openings-the-best-in-years-david-zwirner-petzel/>