

An art gallery installation featuring two abstract paintings on a white wall. The painting on the left has a dark, textured, horizontal pattern, while the one on the right has a lighter, more intricate, organic pattern. In the foreground, there is dark wooden furniture, including a bench and a table, partially obscuring the view of the wall.

# March *madness*

Major art fairs descend on Manhattan. Here are the highlights.

By Terry Trucco

The Armory Show welcomes galleries and art lovers from around the world.



PHOTO: KÖNIG GALERIE BOOBY, FEATURING WORKS BY GALLERY ARTISTS ELMREIN & DRAGSET, AT THE ARMORY SHOW 2018, TEDDY WOLFF

THE MONTH that signals the arrival of the NCAA men's basketball championships, the St. Patrick's Day Parade—and spring—also ushers in a heady lineup of major fairs devoted to art, rare books and design. So, clear the calendar, grab a sturdy pair of walking shoes (and a credit card) and make a beeline for an art fair.

The festivities start with **The Art Show** (643 Park Ave., [artdealers.org](http://artdealers.org)), Feb. 28–March 3. For its 31st year, 72 members of the prestigious Art Dealers Association of America set up shop at the Park Avenue Armory, presenting topflight solo, dual and group exhibitions curated especially for the show. It's the ultimate gallery crawl under one breathtaking Gothic Revival roof. Nearly half the exhibitions are solo shows, many featuring seldom-seen showpieces like the realist paintings of Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937), the first African-American painter to gain international acclaim, at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. Look for a bracing dialogue between gimlet-eyed 20th-century portrait artists Diane Arbus and Alice Neel orchestrated by Fraenkel Gallery and David Zwirner. Newly minted art abounds, including moody abstract paintings by Sam Moyer at Sean Kelly and witty work by New Yorker illustrator Maira Kalman inspired by Gertrude Stein's "The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas" at Julie Saul Gallery. And yes, women artists are having a moment at this year's show.

In addition to showcasing 20th- and 21st-century art from an impressive lineup of international galleries, this year's **Armory Show** celebrates its 25th anniversary March 7–10 at Piers 92 and 94 (711 12th Ave., [thearmoryshow.com](http://thearmoryshow.com)). A bona fide behemoth, the Armory Show encompasses a mind-blowing 194 galleries from 33 countries. Expect attention-grabbing offerings like a restaging of Robert Morris' cerebral "Finch College Project" from 1969 at Castelli Gallery, rarely seen work by 20th-century Surrealist artist and poet Dorothea Tanning at Alison Jacques Gallery and numerous group shows showcasing work by women artists of multiple generations.

**Art on Paper** at Pier 36 (299 South St., [thepaperfair.com](http://thepaperfair.com)), March 7–10, is proof positive that paper is much more than a backdrop for pencil drawings. Consider Jaq Belcher's "Transit," a meticulously choreographed blizzard of 8,355 precision cuts on white paper at Heather Gaudio Fine Art. Or Jose Toirac's disquieting sepia drawing "Larga Vida Breve," its near life-size subject shrouded with delicate flecks of gold leaf at Pan American Art Projects. As the show's 85 exhibitors demonstrate, works on paper embrace nearly anything that's paper-based—collage, painting and photography as well as lithographs by masters like Roy Lichtenstein and Jasper Johns, 19th-century Japanese woodcuts and classic studies for paintings and sculptures. And, of course, pencil drawings. Alexandra Roozen's intricate trompe l'oeil renderings at NL=US give pencil and paper a contemporary spin.

For bibliophiles and history buffs, the grandest works on paper are rare books. With its proven ability to attract



top-notch dealers, the New York Antiquarian Book Fair at the Park Avenue Armory (643 Park Ave., [nyantiquarianbookfair.com](http://nyantiquarianbookfair.com)), March 7 through 10, has showered book lovers with first editions, maps, manuscripts and ephemera for 59 years. A candidate for this year's most gorgeous rarity is a 17th-century Japanese illustrated manuscript, whose exquisite colored paintings depict the adventures of a 12th-century samurai, from Jonathan A. Hill Bookseller. A rare catalog featuring 56 examples of tapa cloth collected during the three Pacific voyages of Captain James Cook from Hordern House should get history lovers' blood pumping. And offering a tech-free respite from video games is the "Mansion of Happiness," a first edition children's board game from 1843 designed to teach Christian morality in an entertaining way from Steffen Völkel Rare Books.

As the world's largest continent, it's fitting that Asia gets its own festival of art and culture. Celebrating its 10th year, Asia Week ([asiaweekny.com](http://asiaweekny.com)), March 13–23, unfurls under numerous roofs and encompasses six auction houses, galleries showcasing work from 48 top-tier international dealers and shows at 16 New York and surrounding area cultural institutions. Given the festival's complex nature, Asia Week Chairman Christina Prescott-Walker suggests visitors consult the Asia Week website or pick up a copy of the printed guide at participants to plan

their visit. Expect to see museum-quality work of all periods from India, the Himalayas, Southeast Asia, China, Korea and Japan. Among the eye-catching examples are a rare Tang Dynasty glazed stoneware pillow of a lion devouring its prey from Littleton & Hennessy Asian Art and an oddly cuddly-looking volcanic stone rendering of Kubera, Hindu mythology's Lord of Wealth, from Buddhist Art. And don't miss the stylish 18th-century suit of samurai armor from Giuseppe Piva Japanese Art.

What kind of house do you want to come home to after a long day? The vast Architectural Digest Design Show at Piers 92 and 94 (711 12th Ave., [adesignshow.com](http://adesignshow.com)) brims with enticing ideas March 21–24. Observing its 18th year, the show addresses every aspect of renovation and home decor. Browse displays of the latest traditional and contemporary furniture, lighting, rugs and textiles. Check out handcrafted woodwork, ceramics, glassware and textiles, including one of a kind. And bask in the attention lavished on kitchens and baths. You'll see new products wherever you look, like vanities pairing oak and handcrafted concrete from Native Trails, a maker of eco-friendly products. Also innovative: a line of self-adhesive wall murals inspired by American artists like Julian Schnabel and Jean-Michel Basquiat from Tempaper, a maker of removable wallpaper.

So give a cheer that it's March—and head for a fair.

PHOTOS: ROBERT BECHTOLD, "THREE HOUSES ON WASHINGTON AVENUE," 2013, COLOR SOFT GROUND ETCHING WITH AQUATINT, EDITION 40, COURTESY CROWN POINT PRESS; A RARE AND DISTINGUISHED IMAGE OF AWALOKTESHVARA, CHINA, 18TH CENTURY, QING DYNASTY, KANGXI STYLE, COURTESY KAPOOR GALLERIES; ZOE BOB SMOKY ABSTRACT FOR TIMOPAYEK, COURTESY ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST DESIGN SHOW; PIERRE MAC OREAN, "LA DANSE MACABRE," 1927, WITH JOHANN DECO WATERCOLORS BY YAN B. DYE, REPRODUCED IN POUCHOIR, FIRST EDITION, FIRST PRINTING, LIMITED TO 305 COPIES, COURTESY ARTHUR JOURNET