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Forbes

ARTS

Three Art Exhibits To See Right Now In New York

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I'm a culture maven and arts enthusiast.

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On a recent visit to New York, I saw three art exhibitions I highly recommend: ***Faith Ringgold: American People***, on view at the New Museum through June 5, 2022; ***The Hare with the Amber Eyes*** at the Jewish Museum, on view through May 15, 2022; and ***Hilary Pecis: Warmly*** at the Rachel Uffner Gallery through May 14.

Hilary Pecis: Warmly at Rachel Uffner Gallery. Hilary Pecis is a Los Angeles artist I discovered online during the pandemic. In ***Warmly***, her third exhibition at The Rachel Uffner Gallery on the Lower East Side, she has gathered recent paintings of still lifes, landscapes and domestic interiors. Pecis' work has echoes of David Hockney, as well as Paul Cezanne, and Henri Matisse.

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Hockney's influence is seen in Pecis' subject matter, most often the personal and the domestic, and in her approach to landscapes (particularly in her *Mt. Whitney on the 395*, which calls to mind Hockney's *Pearblossom Highway*), as well as Pecis' use of bright colors that emphasize design elements in how we live; Cezanne is present in terms of her use of perspective and the dimensionality of objects displayed; and, finally, Matisse, in terms of Pecis' joyous use of color and how she plays with flatness and depth.

If Pecis' artworks were mystery novels, they might be categorized as "cozies." There is something reassuring, even comforting, in her vibrant landscapes and cluttered domestic tables and rooms. At the same time, each work presents innumerable artistic challenges together with personal and artistic allusions. So, for example, in Pecis' *Studio Table* from 2021, we have to assume that the placement of books on Cezanne and Nell Blaine call out Cezanne's paintings of his own studio tables, and the profusion of flowers are like a Blaine painting brought into sharp-edged focus.

Pecis' work may register as decorative, but when seeing it in person, the precision of the compositions and her obsessive attention to detail, makes a compelling case for her artistry.

Taken together, these three shows reflect artistic investigations of identity and self, and upend our notions of art history and contemporary art today.

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