

CRISTIN TIERNEY



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend

From Laura Aguilar's first retrospective at the Leslie-Lohman Museum to sculptural salt licks evoking impermanence by Malia Jensen at Cristin Tierney

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Our editors and writers scour the city each week for the most thoughtful, relevant and exciting new exhibitions and artworks on view at galleries, museums and public venues across all five boroughs of New York. This week we recommend:



Malia Jensen, Hand (with Plum) (2020) Cristin Tierney

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Malia Jensen: Nearer Nature

Until 3 April at Cristin Tierney, 219 Bowery Floor #2, Manhattan

This show represents the culmination of a multi-year project for the artist, whose work often probes into the gray area between the human world and the natural one, pointing to the poetic symmetry between the two. The work began in early 2019, when Jensen carved sculptures from livestock salt licks and installed them in the wilderness throughout Oregon state. The salt licks were carved into a number of forms, some, such as a plate of donuts, recall the domestic and mundane, while others shaped as a hand or a breast invoke tender, life-nurturing figures. When placed in this context, one salt lick carved in the shape of Brancusi's *Sleeping Muse* evokes the relationship between humanity's aspirations of beauty and nature's innate mastery of it. Using over a dozen motion-triggered cameras, she monitored these sculptures as they sat in the wilderness for a year, watching not only as elk, deer, bobcats and other wild animals tasted and interacted with them, but also as the seasons changed and the objects ran through their natural course of deterioration. The footage was whittled down to a six hour video, which is on view in the gallery, and the five hand-carved salt licks were brought in from the forests and cast in glass, creating new sculptures that serve as small monuments to nature's transformative power.