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12 Leading Curators Predict the Defining Art Trends of 2025

Maxwell Rabb

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Last January, 15 leading curators predicted that 2024 would be defined by a tense international sociopolitical climate, especially given ongoing global conflicts and the U.S. election.

These political themes were featured prominently at major art events throughout the year, including the Whitney Biennial, where Kiyan Williams's large sculpture *Ruins of Empire II or The Earth Swallows the Master's House* (2024) portrayed a deteriorating White House fashioned from steel and dirt. For 2025, these social and political statements in the art world, particularly on the topic of the environment, are likely to continue, according to some of the world's top curators.

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Kiyan Williams, installation view of *Ruins of Empire II or The Earth Swallows the Master's House*, 2024, in "Whitney Biennial 2024: Even Better than the Real Thing" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 2024. Photograph by Audrey Wang. Courtesy of the Whitney Museum of American Art.