



Bay Area museums, galleries back with big experiences this summer

Tony Bravo | June 17, 2021 Updated: June 19, 2021, 1:39 pm

Most art-going shrunk to screen-sized in 2020, as virtual exhibitions became pandemic stopgap measures during lockdown. But this summer, Bay Area museums and galleries are open, with plans to unveil big exhibitions featuring works by famed artists including Diego Rivera, Judy Chicago, Diane Arbus, teamLab and Hung Liu.

Some exhibitions were planned for 2020 and are finally getting their turn, interest aided no doubt by anticipation. Other offerings approach timely themes including identity, activism and the environment. Many also aim for the kind of in-person wow factor – either in scale, abundance of work or ambition – that reminds us why seeing art in person is essential.

It's enough to make you put away your smartphone.

Summer will also finally see the debut of two awaited museum expansion and remodel projects. This month, the [Oakland Museum of California's refreshed garden spaces](#) open to the public as the museum reopens for the first time since March 2020, with newly installed art and performance areas overlooking Lake Merritt. In July, the Asian Art Museum will finally open the new Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang Pavilion with the immersive teamLab exhibition "Continuity."

If you haven't been going back out to museums and galleries yet, remember to pace yourself and check on any updates in their individual protocols. You've got the entire summer ahead of you to take it all in.

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Installation view of "Blanketing the Bay" by Liam Everett, 2021, Altman Siegel Gallery.

Photo: Impart Photography

Altman Siegel

'Blanketing the Bay'

The exterior mural installation by artist Liam Everett seeks to bring the inside of his studio outside. The gallery's facade is wrapped in images of Everett's paintings while in progress, while blown-up black-and-white photographs further reveal the studio setting. Color images in the mural show details of paintings like brushstrokes and impressions on the canvas. The project is a collaboration between ICA San Jose, Altman Siegel and Minnesota Street Project.

On view through Aug. 28. Free, by appointment. 1150 25th St., S.F. altmansiegel.com