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YOUR CONCISE NEW YORK ART GUIDE FOR DECEMBER 2021: ARTHUR SIMMS

by Cassie Packard



Installation view, Arthur Simms: And I Say, Brother Had A Very Good Day, One Halo, Martos Gallery, New York, 2021 (courtesy of the artist and Martos Gallery; photo by Charles Benton)

Beloved, beleaguered New Yorkers: from an immersive installation recreating Colette Lumiere's baroque living quarters, to a trio of shows that cull from Columbia University's rarely seen art collection, to a presentation of drawings by Black artists from the American South, here are a few exhibitions worth bundling up for (the last can also be explored virtually). And be sure to catch the Guggenheim's survey of the light- and life-filled work of the inimitable Etel Adnan, who passed away last month.

Arthur Simms: And I Say, Brother Had A Very Good Day, One Halo

When: through December 23

Where: Martos Gallery (41 Elizabeth Street, Chinatown, Manhattan)

Jamaica-born, New York-based artist Arthur Simms presents three decades' worth of drawing and sculpture engaging with his longstanding exploration of his diasporic identity as well as his work at the intersection of folk art, craft, and art history. Found object assemblages feature twine or wire lattices that wrap and bind disparate items including roller skates, rocking horses, feathers, and, in the case of one piece inspired by Willem de Kooning and Marcel Duchamp, two bicycles with a vintage toilet; relatively two-dimensional works cobble together materials including tinfoil, photographs, hair, and acetate.