

HYPERALLERGIC

Hyperallergic Spring 2026
New York Art Guide
March 2, 2026
Saodat Ismailova: Amanat

GUIDE

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The gleeful subversiveness of Duchamp at MoMA, the first major US show on Raphael at The Met, and exhibitions on spirituality, the body, fashion, and more.



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Film still of Women's History Museum, "The Massive Disposal of Experience" (2022), in Greater New York at MoMA PS1 (photo Aidan Barringer, courtesy the artists)

What a winter. Something tells me spring's arrival this year will be like feeling returning to a limb. What better way to greet it than to visit the nearly 70 shows we've compiled below? This year, we opted to sort by category, so you can skip straight to what moves you.

There are the shows that everyone's buzzing about — the pulse-check of the Whitney Biennial, the long-awaited reopening of the New Museum, the gleeful subversiveness of Duchamp at MoMA. And exhibitions that reframe art history in strange, rich ways: Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera meet the Met Opera; Paul Klee is newly charged with the return of "degenerate art"; and, somehow, a major show of Raphael is being mounted in the United States for the first time.

We've got devotional art spanning Shivas and Buddhas at the Asia Society to the Brooklyn Museum's newly restored Egyptian Books of the Dead. The body gets its due this season, from the lusty margins of medieval manuscripts to quieter contemporary meditations on skin. Fashion is having a moment: Pioneer Works plunges into the textile trade, while the Frick addresses portraiture and dress in the paintings of Gainsborough. (We will not speak of the Bezos takeover of the Costume Institute.) Public art, meanwhile, is springing up again — timed, mercifully, to some warmer weather. Did we mention that there's going to be a giant Buddha on the High Line?

These exhibitions examine and reimagine what it means to live here — each offering something to happen upon, linger over, carry home. Right now, that feels like exactly what we need.

—*Lisa Yin Zhang, associate editor*

Ecology

Saodat Ismailova: Amanat

Swiss Institute, 38 Saint Marks Place, East Village, Manhattan
Through April 12



Film still of Saodat Ismailova, "Amanat" (2026) (image courtesy the artist)

According to local legend, the walnut forests of Arslanbob sprang from a single date seed an elder gave to a young boy. This presentation of films and sound works by the Uzbek artist — her first US solo show — transports visitors to the psychospacial terrain of Central Asia. Foregrounding the senses, it immerses them in a space where spiritual life, geopolitics, and dream logic meld.