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The fine art of doing Frieze week for free

EXHIBITIONS

The annual art fair means London is full of collectors, and the galleries are making the most of it. So can you, says **Ben Luke**

NEXT week, when London's biggest art fair Frieze kicks off, the buzz will be centred on the two tents in Regent's Park housing Frieze London and Frieze Masters. It's a snapshot of the market and a chance to see some works that will disappear into private collections for a long time. But wow, it's expensive: a visit to the first preview on Thursday, which isn't even the VIP day, will set you back £145 for Frieze London and £245 for the two. For the weekend, it's £56 and £82.

But there's a hack for the art lover unprepared to spend their monthly coffee budget in one day. Elsewhere in London, the same galleries showing in the tents are putting on high-quality shows — much better installed, much more in-depth in their scope (and likely to be much quieter), and completely free to visit.

The shows here are just a start; there are scores more that won't cost a penny, and that's before you even consider the non-profit galleries across town. So here's how to do Frieze (week) for free.

Mickalene Thomas: Beyond the Pleasure Principle

With a title alluding to both Sigmund Freud's essay and a Janet Jackson song, this show features Thomas's Jet Blue series, in which she uses Jet magazine pin-up calendars as the basis for collages brimming with energy. Set amid wallpaper with archival images of interior decor, they reflect Thomas's ongoing exploration of black female agency and sexuality, and queer identity.

● Lévy Gorvy, *Old Bond St* and *Albemarle St*, to Nov 13

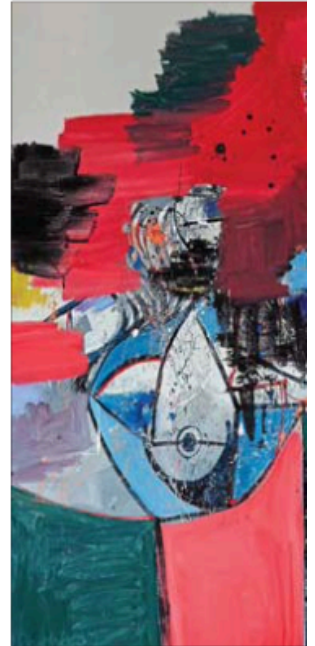
Social Works II

In a notably museumy show, the critic Antwaun Sargent brings together a range of artists from the African diaspora, many working across media and disciplines, from designer Grace Wales Bonner to architect David Adjaye. However distinctly, each artist explores the role of community and social space in defining identities.

● Gagosian, Grosvenor Hill, to Dec 18

Claudette Johnson: Still Here

Still here, and still making powerful work, Johnson, a key member of the Bk Art Group — young Midlands-based artists who focused on exploring black



identity in the Eighties — makes striking, defiant images of black women in particular. Here she shows works influenced by her experience of lockdown.

● Hollybush Gardens, to Nov 13

Noah Davis

Davis died tragically young of cancer after a brief but brilliant career both as an artist and the founder, with his sculptor wife Karon, of the Underground Museum (UM) in LA. Archive material relating to the UM and a work by Davis's brother, filmmaker Kahlil Joseph, are included here, alongside Davis's mysterious, beautiful, poetic paintings.

● David Zwirner, from Oct 8 to Nov 17

Mark Rothko 1968: Clearing Away

Pace's new gallery in Hanover Square is inaugurated by these luminous paintings on paper made at the end of Roth-

TONIGHT'S TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.00 BBC News at Six (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.30 BBC London News (S); Weather.
- 7.00 The One Show (S,HD). Hosted by Ronan Keating and Angellica Bell.
- 7.30 Question of Sport (S,HD). 6/36. With four Olympic medallists from Tokyo.
- 8.00 EastEnders (S,HD). Doty's frustrations increase when her mum comes under fire once more.
- 8.30 Richard Osman's House of Games Night (S,HD). 2/6. Four famous faces test their general knowledge skills in a variety of fun trivia-based games.
- 9.00 Have I Got News for You (S,HD). 1/10. New series. Ross Noble and Ria Lina join regulars Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.
- 9.30 The Cleaner (S,HD). 5/6.
- 10.00 BBC News at Ten (S,HD).
- 10.25 BBC London News (S); Weather.
- 10.35 The Graham Norton Show (S,HD). 3/22. With guests including Andie MacDowell, Jodie Comer and Billy Porter.
- 11.25 Sliding Doors (S,HD) (1998).
- 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead (S,HD). 1.05 BBC News (S,HD).

BBC2

- 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (S,HD). 40/140. Roger Black, Jo Brand, Sanjeev Kohli and Tiff Stevenson take part.
- 6.30 Strictly: It Takes Two (S,HD). 10/60. Rylan gets all the backstage gossip.
- 7.00 MOTDx (S,HD). A look at the lifestyle and culture that surrounds the Premier League.
- 7.30 Inside Culture (S,HD). 3/5. Why we are drawn to stories that take us "back to school".
- 8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs (R,S,HD). 1/6.
- 8.30 Gardeners' World (S,HD). Monty Don and the team celebrate the wonder of trees.
- 9.30 The North Water (S,HD). 5/5. Sumner returns to Hull to demand money from Baxter. Last in the series.
- 10.30 Newsnight (S,HD).
- 11.00 Weather (S,HD).
- 11.05 Blair and Brown: The New Labour Revolution (R,S,HD). 1/5.
- 12.05 Dementia and Us (R,S,HD). 1.05 Sign Zone: Pandora Papers: Political Donors Exposed (R,S,HD). 1.35 This Is BBC Two (S,HD).

ITV

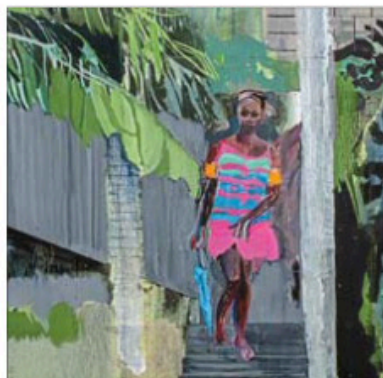
- 6.00 ITV News London (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.30 ITV Evening News (S,HD); Weather.
- 7.00 Emmerdale (S,HD). An accident gives Rodney an opportunity.
- 7.30 Coronation Street (S,HD). Alya and Zeedan fight back against Debbie.
- 8.00 Simply Raymond Blanc (S,HD). The chef cooks a flash fried squid, with a fennel and rocket salad.
- 8.30 Coronation Street (S,HD).
- 9.00 Grantchester (S,HD). 6/8. When the leader of a student CND group falls to her death from a college building while staging a protest, Will and Georgie discover her demise is not as accidental as it appears.
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.30 ITV News London (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.45 Rocky IV (S,HD) (1985). The Italian Stallion steps into the ring against a seemingly invincible Russian boxer who caused the death of his friend. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone and Dolph Lundgren.
- 12.20 Sorry, I Didn't Know (R,S,HD). 12.45 Shop: Ideal World (HD). 3.00 PM Extra (HD). 3.15 Rolling in It (R,S,HD). 4.05 Unwind With ITV (HD). 5.05 Winning Combination (R,S,HD).

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Simpsons (R,S). 9/25. An overdose of spicy food causes Homer to experience hallucinations.
- 6.30 Hollyoaks (R,S,HD). Liberty tries to convince Damon to let go of his resentment towards Sienna.
- 7.00 News (S,HD).
- 7.30 Unreported World (S,HD). The indigenous women going missing without a trace in the wilderness of the United States.
- 8.00 The Great British Bake Off: an Extra Slice (S,HD). 3/10. Aisling Bea, Martin Kemp and Melvin Odoom join Jo Brand.
- 9.00 Gogglebox (S,HD). 4/13. The households' opinions on recent TV.
- 10.00 The Last Leg (S,HD). Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests Guz Khan and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi for a comic review of the past seven days.
- 11.05 First Dates (R,S,HD).
- 12.10 Murder Island (R,S,HD). 1.05 Film: Behind Enemy Lines (S,HD) (2001). 2.50 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 3.15 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 3.45 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 4.15 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 4.40 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 5.10 Location, Location, Location (R,S,HD).

LONDON LIVE

- 6.00 London Live News.
- 7.00 Goodnight Sweetheart.
- 7.45 London Districts.
- 8.00 World War II. In the small Italian seaside town of Ortona, the Axis and Allies fought street by street. Newly-released secret documents and eyewitness accounts reveal all.
- 9.00 Desperate Characters (1971). A burglary turns a middle-aged couple's lives upside down, and makes them question the values they've always believed in. Drama, starring Shirley MacLaine.
- 10.45 Sophie's Choice (1982). A Polish Holocaust survivor tries to start afresh in Forties New York, but is tormented by ghosts from her nightmarish past, leaving her desperately seeking solace in a stormy relationship with an unpredictable chemist. But all is not as it seems, as a new neighbour seems set to discover. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Meryl Streep alongside Kevin Kline and Peter MacNicol.
- 1.40 Film: Baseline (2010). 3.30 News Rewind. 5.00 Taking Points.



Ron Mueck: 25 Years of Sculpture, 1996-2021; Please Touch: Marcel Duchamp and the Fetish

Some major museums are — quite rightly, in my view — Ron Mueck sceptics but if you want to see a broad survey of his work, then this is for you. It's the biggest yet and includes the macabre Dead Dad, memorably shown in the RA's Sensation show, as well as new works. I'll be heading instead for the smaller show on the provocative eroticism at the heart of Marcel Duchamp's still beguiling oeuvre.

● *Thaddaeus Ropac*, from Oct 13 to Nov 13

George Condo: Ideals of the Unfound Truth

Condo describes his fragmented figures and faces, veering from calm delicacy to abject violence, as "composites of various psychological states painted in different ways". Deeply entrenched in art history, inclined to reference everyone from Frans Hals to Picasso, his paintings and drawings can be anything from disquieting to laugh-out-loud funny. But they're always arresting.

● *Hauser & Wirth*, from Oct 13 to Dec 23
Frieze London and Frieze Masters are at Regent's Park, Oct 13 to 17

ko's life. His late period is often characterised as being dominated by ominous black and grey works but these paintings, small for Rothko and meant to be seen up-close, belie that narrative. Despite experiencing illness at the time, Rothko also threw himself into vibrant colour.

● *Pace*, from Oct 8 to Nov 13

Jordan Casteel: There is a Season

The first solo exhibition outside the US for this leading figure in a new generation of figurative American painters. Vividly colourful and expressive, Casteel's paintings include images of people that she knows well and self-portraits, as well as anonymous travellers on the Subway.

● *Massimo de Carlo*, from Oct 11 to Nov 17

Lenore Tawney: Part 1

Tawney (1907-2007) only began studying art in her late 40s and hit her stride as a textile artist in her 50s. The first of two Tawney shows at Alison Jacques concentrates on her pioneering early pieces, all lightness and luminosity, including forms hung from the gallery ceiling. Tawney's friend, the great painter Agnes Martin, judiciously described the new expression she found in weaving as "a wonderful and gratifying experience".

● *Alison Jacques*, from Oct 11 to Nov 6

Karlo Kacharava

A poet and painter, Kacharava was active in Soviet Georgia in the Eighties and then between Tbilisi and Europe until his death aged



just 30 in 1994. His paintings, here selected by the painter Sanya Kantarovsky and curator Scott Portnoy, are often intense multi-figure compositions in atmospheric settings, filled with writing and jarring imagery derived from everything from comics to German Expressionist masters.

● *Modern Art*, from Oct 11 to Dec 18

Sarah Sze

Sze is best known for her sculptures assembled from sundry objects which form uncanny, immersive environments. But she started out as a painter and through a similarly collage-like approach, has found a way to match the intensity and intricacy of her three-dimensional work in paint, creating works rich in mystery and movement that appear both to explode and implode before us. She also shows new sculptures.

● *Victoria Miro*, Wharf Rd, from Oct 12 to Nov 6

Hurvin Anderson: Reverb

Marvellously lyrical and elusive new paintings by the British artist that explore an eerie-looking hotel in Jamaica, the country of his heritage. For three years, Anderson focused on the hotel's architecture and the surrounding landscape. But his paintings are also rich in art-historical allusion: in the superb painting *Grace Jones*, a figure clearly evokes Gerhard Richter's great painting *Ema (Nude on a Staircase)*, itself a riff on Marcel Duchamp.

● *Thomas Dane*, from Oct 12 to Dec 4

Shahzia Sikander: Infinite Woman

Sikander studied manuscript painting in Lahore and subverts time-honoured Central and South Asian visual lan-



Burst of colour: clockwise from far left: Mickalene Thomas, *Jet Blue #25*; George Condo, *Days of Wine and Roses*; Karlo Kacharava, *Sentimental Travel*; Hurvin Anderson, *Grace Jones*; Claudette Johnson, *Seated Figure in Blue*; Mark Rothko, *Untitled 1968*. Below, Ron Mueck, *Dead Weight*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: © GEORGE CONDO COURTESY THE ARTIST AND HAUSER & WIRTH; COURTESY THE ESTATE OF KARLO KACHARAVA AND MODERN ART; © HURVIN ANDERSON AND THOMAS DANE GALLERY; EVA HERZOG COURTESY OF MARK ROTHKO AND THADDAEUS ROPAC GALLERY; ARTWORKS ON PAPER BY MARK ROTHKO © 2020/ ANDY KEATE COURTESY OF ARTIST



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