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CULTURE

5 Can't-Miss Latin American and Latinx Artists at the 2022 Armory

Jacoba Urist - September 6, 2022

Ahead of this year's exhibition, Cultured highlights five of the most dynamic legacy and emerging Latin

American and Latinx artists at the fair this week.



This week the Armory Show returns to New York for its 2022 edition in its new, post-pandemic home at the Javits Center. But for the first time in the storied art fair's history, the event brings together three voices with related curatorial practices, offering a distinct, unified lens to engage transcultural questions in contemporary art. Heavyweight curators Carla Acedevo-Yates of the Museum of Contemporary Chicago, Tobias Ostrander of Tate, London, and Mari Carmen Ramírez from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston each lend a Latin American and Latinx viewpoint to this year's iteration of the Focus and Platform sections, as well as the fair's curatorial leadership symposium. Galleries in the Armory's wider programming have also stepped up and taken the initiative to present artists that compliment this year's speciality mission. Ahead of this year's exhibition Cultured highlights five of the most dynamic legacy and emerging Latin American and Latinx artists on display throughout the fair this week.

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Rafa Silvares

Peres Projects, Berlin, Seoul, Milan

With punk orange and acid green, São Paulo painter Rafa Silvares, 38, creates supersonic tableaus of household detritus—tin foil, a telephone receiver—and metallic machinery that manage to ignite a sensory reaction. From garbage cans and smoke plumes to anthropomorphic pipes and tubes, Silvares's practice straddles Pop and Futurism in a metaphysical industrial-scape. Previously a graphic designer and digital illustrator, the artist celebrated his debut solo show "Smoked Ham" last fall with Peres Projects in Berlin, where he lives, and has an upcoming exhibition next month in the gallery's Milan space. This being his inaugural showing in New York City, experiencing Silvares's work in person at the Armory is a must. But don't be mistaken by the playful palette: for the artist, train chimneys and trash bags are the harbinger of an environmental apocalypse.