

This Week: Must See Arts in the City

WNYC's Arts Datebook, November 4

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The Painted Word: Raymond Pettibon merges comic book art and painting. Above, 'No Title (She Must Know...)', a work from his latest show at David Zwirner. ([Courtesy David Zwirner, New York and Regen Projects, Los Angeles](#))

The graphic paintings of a punk artist, pulp-fiction inspired collage, geometric street art, Nigerian popular videos and a very dirty rendering of Plato at an art book fair in Queens. Here's your guide to the best of New York's artsy goodness for the coming week.

[Raymond Pettibon, *Hard in the Paint*, at David Zwirner Gallery](#) The artist who rose to fame doing album covers for the California punk band Black Flag opens his latest solo exhibit this weekend in Chelsea. Inspired by comic art and graphic novels, Pettibon's text-and-image illustrations have grown increasingly painterly over the years—with roiling swirls of stark blues and browns stirred into a palette that was once all black and white. He may have added color, but the mood remains strictly noir. Pettibon always manages to give the most innocent of scenarios a somewhat sinister sheen. (While you're at Zwirner, be sure to pop into the gallery's adjacent space for a peek at Belgian painter [Luc Tuymans' latest](#)—a series of ghostly works that explore the roots of corporate life. He will also be signing his new book, *Luc Tuymans: Is It Safe?*, at [Phaidon](#) in SoHo on Friday evening at 6:30pm—a good opportunity to meet this most [influential](#) of contemporary painters.) Both gallery shows open Saturday, in Manhattan.

[FAILE, *Bedtime Stories*, at Perry Rubenstein Gallery](#) This Brooklyn graphic design-inspired duo has long been obsessed with comic books, [manga](#) and pulp fiction imagery, assembling and disassembling these into lavish collages rife with melodrama and excess. Earlier this year, the pair produced a massive, three-dimensional “temple” with these motifs in Lisbon, as part of a Portuguese arts festival. (You can see the pictures [here](#).) For this, their latest show at Perry Rubenstein, the two have created oversized pieces that jam together these familiar themes in ways that resemble a totally wacked-out quilt. Opens on Thursday, in Manhattan.

[Aakash Nihalani, *Overlap*, at Bose Pacia, in Dumbo](#) Three years ago, Nihalani caught the attention of street art gazers in New York with his [illicitly-installed geometric abstractions](#) constructed entirely out of brightly-colored tape. Since then, he has steadily moved toward gallery work, where he produces sculptures made of metal, cardboard and tape that recreate his isometric and polygonal shapes in three dimensions—one of which pays (inexpensive) tribute to [Jeff Koons’ famous balloon dog](#). Opens on Thursday, in Brooklyn.

[Sharon Stone in Abuja, at Location One, in SoHo](#) For more than a decade, Nigeria’s film industry—known in the biz as “[Nollywood](#)”—has been cranking out thousands of straight-to-video films that feature everything from vampires to car crashes to highly improbable love stories. This vibrant form of popular culture (Nigeria is said to be one of the top three producers of feature films in the world) serves as the inspirational springboard for the latest group show at Location One, an endeavor organized by British curator James Lindon and filmmaker Zina Saro-Wiwa (daughter of activist [Ken Saro-Wiwa](#)). Among the artists featured are Wangechi Mutu, Mickalene Thomas and Pieter Hugo, whose [photographic chronicle of the industry](#), published last year, is a [must-read](#) for fans of filmmaking and contemporary photography. Opens Thursday at 6 P.M., in Manhattan.

[The NY Art Book Fair, at PS1, in Long Island City](#) Japanese ‘zines. Vintage first editions. Special installations. Artist limited runs. The reading set can lose themselves in this sprawling fair devoted to the art of the book and books on art—which, best of all, is free and open to the public. Keep an eye peeled for the Goteblūd booth, which will feature an exhibition of more than 600 [Riot Grrrls](#) ‘zines (complete with working copy station). Also worthwhile: A reading by Paul Chan, a contemporary artist who has used his own specially-designed fonts to rework Plato’s *Phaedrus* in some extraordinarily naughty ways. Opens Friday at 11 A.M., through Sunday, until 5 P.M., in Queens. Chan's event takes place on Sunday at 3 P.M.