



Art Stars

From grand institutions to scrappy pop-up galleries, there are more ways than ever to **experience fine art** in D.C. BY PHILIPPA HUGHES

Washington, D.C., is practically synonymous with museums. And the city's arts scene has long been equated with grand institutions such as the National Portrait Gallery. But fine art in D.C. extends well beyond the National Mall. Galleries and forward-thinking art shows exhibiting emerging and established artists have been popping up all over the region, adding a hint of cutting-edge cool to the city's already renowned arts landscape. What follows is a curated collection of must-see museums, galleries and fairs that together represent the best of the area's burgeoning scene.

The Phillips Collection

The Phillips Collection, a private modern art museum in a residential setting, was founded by Duncan Phillips, who transformed his Georgian Revival home in the heart of Dupont Circle into a major force in the local and national art worlds. The stunning building is now home to works by seminal Modern and Impressionist masters, including Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Mark Rothko, Pierre Bonnard and Georgia O'Keeffe, and boasts special galleries — including the Rothko Room and the Laib Wax Room — and a

lovely collection of 19th-century French paintings, including Renoir's popular *Luncheon of the Boating Party*.
1600 21st St., NW; 202/387-2151; phillipscollection.org. Admission: \$12; \$10 for students and seniors; free for kids under 18.

Pleasant Plains Workshop

Founded by one of D.C.'s hardest-working artists and arts organizers, Kristina Bilonick, this artist studio, gallery space and clubhouse for a handful of the city's best young artists is continually lauded in the larger art world. It also boasts a shop full of affordable art and artist-made goods. The space's fall show features local artist Natalie Campbell, who teams up with Pleasant Plains Workshop resident artist Martine Worman to present a body of work that hones in on the subject of how and why news is disseminated.
2608 Georgia Ave., NW; 202/415-1466; pleasantplainsworkshop.com.

(E)merge Art Fair

The (e)merge art fair showcases unrepresented artists and emerging international art stars, and has the vibe of a mini Art Basel Miami Beach. This quirky annual event takes place at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, which was designed by Morris Lapidus and is owned by well-known art collectors the



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VAN GOGH MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM

Clockwise from opposite page: Taking in the Vincent Van Gogh exhibit at the Phillips Collection; A neon installation at the (e)merge art fair; Van Gogh's *Portrait of Camille Roulin*; A pair of still-life man-bunnies at the (e)merge art fair.

Rubell family. The crowd is a hodgepodge of international gallery and art professionals and D.C.'s best and brightest artists and cultural leaders. Rising local art stars Wilmer Wilson IV and J.J. McCracken, who are currently gaining national recognition, have both performed at the event. Oct. 3-6 at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, 10 I St., SW; emergeartfair.com. Admission: \$15; \$10 for seniors and students.

Heiner Contemporary

Boasting a signature pink door, Heiner Contemporary may be the newest addition to the local arts scene, but it's already recognized as one of D.C.'s top galleries. Located in a classic row house along a bustling commercial corridor in Georgetown, Heiner shows a mix of emerging and established artists selected with an eye for beauty and intellectual stimulation and aimed toward D.C.'s professional crowd. This fall, the gallery shows Rachel Farbiarz, a Yale-educated former lawyer whose formats of choice run the gamut from installation and sculpture to text-based work and collage/drawings. 1675 Wisconsin Ave., NW; 202/338-0072; heinercontemporary.com. Admission is free.

Delicious Spectacle

This roving gallery space founded by local artists can currently be found on the first floor of a row house in Columbia Heights. Its mission is to allow artists and curators to execute challenging projects that "redefine and further their process and thinking." Expect interesting exhibitions, lectures and — for cerebral art fans — critical theory discus-

sions featuring local, regional and international artists and guest curators. delicious spectacle.com; email delicious spectacle@gmail.com for its exact location.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, D.C.'s oldest art museum, is home to an incredible collection of historic American art — Edward Hopper, John Singer Sargent, Gilbert Stuart and Thomas Cole are among the masters represented — dating primarily up to 1945. But it's not all history at the Corcoran. The museum's NOW at the Corcoran is a program that focuses on emerging and mid-career contemporary artists, and is currently exhibiting the oversized work of acclaimed contemporary sculptor Mia Feuer. Her show, titled *An Unkindness*, explores the physical and social tensions of "violated space." 500 17th St., NW; 202/639-1700; corcoran.org. Admission: \$10.

Curator's Office

Art space Curator's Office recently shuttered its bricks-and-mortar gallery, but its owner, gallerist Andrea Pollan, continues to mount pop-up art shows in temporary spaces around D.C. that feel exciting and fresh. On display from Sept. 26 to Oct. 13 are hyper-realistic sculptures by Olivia Rodriguez, whose last outing at the gallery featured installations depicting mushrooms, chewing gum, fungi, insects, mold, rotting logs, larvae and maggots. curatorsoffice.com 📍