

# The New York Times

ART & DESIGN

## What to See in N.Y.C Galleries Right Now



FEB. 10, 2022

*Want to see new art this weekend? Start in Midtown with Chris Martin's funky, spiritual paintings. Then head to Chelsea for Surrealist explorations. And don't miss Maja Ruznic's dreamy, moonlit paintings in the Lower East Side and David Diao's thrilling colors and compositions in TriBeCa.*

## Newly Reviewed

MIDTOWN

### Chris Martin

Through Feb. 26. Anton Kern Gallery, 16 East 55th Street, Manhattan; (212) 367-9663, [antonkerngallery.com](http://antonkerngallery.com)

It's thrilling to think of an exhibition — even a small one — of the gorgeous, funky, spiritual paintings of Chris Martin at the Whitney or the Museum of Modern Art, not to mention the Brooklyn Museum. But who do I kid? Although in his late 60s, this hero of the Williamsburg painting scene (who has also shown in Manhattan galleries since 1988) is represented in none of these museums; he's never even been in a Whitney Biennial.

In a museum, these paintings would attract art novices of any age. With their allusions to immense night skies, preoccupation with outer space and their elegant improvisational brushwork, they are unusually accessible. Frequent additions of glitter, sequins and magazine images further demystify abstraction. And although often enormous, Martin's paintings are never overwhelming. Their alluring lightness all but invites us to enter their vast spaces, and float away.

In an untitled painting, a dense field of brown glitter becomes a garden for a collage of gleaming marijuana leaves. "Jupiter Landscape" dots a fiery terrain with white ovals ringed in yellow. And the show's tour de force, "Telescope Sphinx in Outer Space," is collaged with photographs of Jupiter, the pyramids



Chris Martin's "Telescope Sphinx in Outer Space," 2019-2021, is collaged with photographs of Jupiter, the pyramids of Giza and Greta Garbo. Chris Martin and Anton Kern Gallery

of Giza and Greta Garbo. On its very low horizon, Martin reviews motifs from his earlier work. One large untitled painting is unlike any Martin I've ever seen; working with a very broad brush, he created a vortex of color and light finished off with a restrained scattering of little gold stars. ROBERTA SMITH