

Art & Exhibitions

18 Essential Spring Exhibitions to See in New York

As Frieze approaches, New York exhibitions abound—spotlighting major names from Picasso and Leonor Fini to Salman Toor and Rashid Johnson.

by Sarah Cascone • May 5, 2025

“Saya Woolfalk: Empathic Universe” at the Museum of Art and Design
April 12–September 7, 2025



Saya Woolfalk, *Lovescape* (2004) installed in “Saya Woolfalk: Empathic Universe” at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York. Photo: by Jenna Bascom, courtesy the Museum of Arts and Design, New York.

It's the first retrospective for 45-year-old Saya Woolfalk, whose career isn't just about making beautiful, meaningful artwork. She's also a masterful world-builder, crafting a dense scientific universe about a hybrid plant people called Empathics who live in sisterhood with the earth. Woolfalk has transformed the museum's fifth floor into the Empathics' world, with a dense and colorful installation of animated videos, paper collages, and life-size figurative sculptures wearing her textile works—which also serve as costumes. (If you don't make it during Frieze Week, save the date September 7 for a live performance from the Alvin Ailey-Fordham dance program featuring the garments.)

MAD is located at 2 Columbus Circle, New York, New York.

