

5 Art-Filled Gardens to Explore This Summer

From the highly-anticipated opening of the Morgan Library Garden in New York to a new collaboration between Richard Serra and Thomas Phifer at Glenstone in Maryland, these are the best nature-filled art experiences of the season

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The original entrance to J. Pierpont Morgan's Library.
PHOTO: BRETT BEYER; COURTESY OF THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

There is no denying that the sleek architecture of a white cube space provides an exceptional art viewing experience, allowing a collective experience and the opportunity to contextualize artworks in relation to one another. But after the pandemic, public art and the newfound joy of the outdoors has gained another level of relevancy, becoming necessary for those who could no longer make their way into the museums and galleries.

Now, with summer in full swing, there are plenty of new outdoor experiences to discover, offering a marvelous pastime to take a break from the daily haste. And while many parks in and around New York—such as the Socrates Sculpture Park or the Storm King—present ambitiously curated outdoor exhibitions with large-scale sculptures dotting the ample greens, one mustn't overlook the smaller gardens that promise a more intimate encounter too.

3. Sam Moyer and Eddie Martinez at the Landcraft Garden Foundation, Mattituck

As the weekend getaways to the Hamptons begin to fill many art-lovers calendars, a garden in Mattituck promises the perfect stop in North Fork to enjoy another husband and wife's joint show. Organized by New York-based Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone and Landcraft Garden Foundation, *Sculpture in the Garden 2022* features works by Sam Moyer and Eddie Martinez who are both primarily celebrated for their two-dimensional art. The show however invites visitors to explore the third dimension in their practices, featuring eleven sculptures by Martinez and three by Moyer. The elements of energy and texture in abstraction have been critical for both artists' approach to surfaces, and with the outdoor sculptures, they further their experiments on similar notions with the vistas of a lush garden.

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

“The exhibition at Landcraft Gardens cannot exist without the artworks in relation to the garden—and the artworks cannot gain proper recognition without the garden,” Rondinone tells *Galerie*. “It is all about finding the right balance between the animated garden and the static of the artworks.” Similarly, the couple’s collaboration hints at intimacy and unity—both with one another and the nature. Martinez’s sculptures for example include objects he has collected from nearby beaches as well as the Brooklyn streets, including rubber, wood, cardboard or bottle caps. Moyer’s concrete or bluestone works on the other hand rely on a sense of balance and rhythm, letting wind and gravity take in part their presence. “Like in any other relationship, cooperation is key,” Rondinone adds. “The essence of an artwork shouldn’t be altered due to the garden, but it surely can be enhanced; it’s a coexistence in what feels like a physical acoustic space — rich and reverberant.”



An installation view of "Sculpture in the Garden 2022".



Eddie Martinez, "Half Stepping Hot Stepper," 2016.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST