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David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for FebruaryBy David Ebony
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Nancy Graves, installation view, 2015. Photo: Courtesy Mitchell-Innes and Nash.

9. Nancy Graves at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, through March 7
Nancy Graves (1939–1995), was a key figure in the transition from the dominant forms of Minimalism and Conceptualism that marked the late 1960s and '70s, toward a more pluralistic view of art production that became widely embraced in the 1980s and later. This show features a number of strong and rarely exhibited examples from the artist's estate. The image of a camel was central to her work of the 1970s, as part her vocabulary of "realistic illusions" and "natural fictions." Her cryptic camel skeleton sculpture, Inside-Out (1970), made of steel, wax, marble dust, fiberglass, and animal skin, is a highlight of the show. Also on view, projected high on one wall, are a series or early videos, including Izy Boukir (1970), a film shot in the Sahara, featuring music by Philip Glass. Equally remarkable are her colorful, large-scale paintings from the "Camouflage" series of the 1970s; they prove that Graves was far ahead of her time.