

Art & Exhibitions

Editor's Picks: 5 Queer Art Shows to See in NYC

A broad spectrum of art is on view at these New York LGBTQ- focused exhibitions. Here's are our must-see choices for a gallery crawl.

William Van Meter, January 29, 2024



Linus Borgo, *Narcissus at the Halsey Street Oasis*, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 82" x 103" (208.5 x 261.5 cm)

In Chelsea, Linus Borgo's enthralling debut solo show *Monstrum* is dense with mythos (both self-mythology and the ancient polytheistic sort). Borgo is a trans man who lost his hand in a near death experience his first year at RISD. The ramifications of this are rife in the work: Borgo deftly weaves between planes of existence, life, death, and the dream world in-between, piling up Renaissance master references and nods to the Greek pantheon next to glimpses of modernity. There is a gory element of soothsaying from reading animal entrails and a proud portrayal of the trans body clashing with scenes that correlate to societal vivisection.

Borgo himself makes frequent cameos, always staunchly depicting the reality of his hand—including multiple appearances as a merman—twice in the more classic sense, seemingly riffing off *The Little Mermaid* in the Copenhagen harbor whereas in another, he's splayed out in a bathtub reminiscent of Darryl Hannah in *Splash* but with evident top surgery scars.

The work *Narcissus at the Halsey Oasis* depicts what looks like a late-night post-disco highway underpass reverie—the subject is looking fly in his fur coat nightclub outfit and is looking at his reflection in a puddle. He doesn't seem to see perfection in himself, but rather projects it onto the world and into this makeshift liquid mirror—the puddle is filled with flowers and lily pads instead of Brooklyn sludge.