

Paul Laster, "8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows in July," *Galerie*, July 3, 2024

Galerie



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BY PAUL LASTER

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Journeying from New York to Aspen and then to San Francisco and Los Angeles, *Galerie* has rounded up the top solo gallery shows across America this month. From a curated survey of major paintings by Julian Schnabel at Vito Schnabel Gallery in New York to talented painter Emily Ferguson's striking portraits of femme fatales at Nicodim Gallery in L.A., these are the not-to-be-missed exhibitions in July.



Matthew Barney, *Power Rack / Iron Inversion*, (2024).

PHOTO: DAVID REGEN; COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GLADSTONE GALLERY

4. Matthew Barney at Gladstone Gallery, New York

A celebrated artist and filmmaker best known for his cinematic *CremasterThCycle*, which repeatedly returned to moments of early sexual development in relation to creativity through photographs, drawings, sculptures, installations, and—of course—his five metaphoric, feature-length films, Matthew Barney (<https://www.gladstonegallery.com/exhibition/12647/secondary-object-replay/installation-views>) had more recently gone under the art world's radar until the acclaimed premiere of his video installation, *SECONDARY*, which was filmed in the artist's Long Island City sculpture studio and exhibited in Europe in 2023. Exploring the nature of the American psyche, violence, and football, the plot of the film revolves around an accident that occurred during a 1978 football game in which a defensive back for the Oakland Raiders delivered an open-field hit on a wide receiver for the new England Patriots that left the latter player paralyzed.

The symbolic sculptures in the show were constructed with ceramics, aluminum, polymers, lead, and readymade objects related to bodybuilding and core strengthening, while the drawings and paintings illustrate physical movement and abstract forces at play. A sense of supernatural phenomenon is most evident, however, in the markings on the gallery walls, which ritualistically encircle the lower gallery space. Employing a weight-lifting bar with an attached chunk of clay, Barney tapped into a previous series of *DrawingThRestrains* to subtly leave his mark in the gallery while dressed as an aging football player, which was documented as a key ingredient of the show.

Through July 26