
TOP TEN 2015: CHICAGO By James Yood



Golden rest- Dead treez (detail), 2015

Ebony G. Patterson

Mixed media jacquard woven tapestry with handmade shoes and crocheted leaves, 78" x 114"

Photo: courtesy Monique Meloche Gallery

1) Monique Meloche Gallery, "EbonyG.Patterson: unearthing treez"

This one hit all the buttons, a concentrated theme (death in paradise, or something close to that) superbly executed by an artist at the peak of her skills.

2) Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, "International Pop"

I'll never stand in a classroom and say "Pop Art is American Art" again. A revelation.

3) Art Institute of Chicago, "Charles Ray: Sculpture, 1997-2014"

More like a coronation than an exhibition, august and ceremonial, but worked in the quirky way Ray always does.

4) Hyde Park Art Center, "Susan Giles: Scenic Overlook"

Four enormous wooden observation towers by one of Chicago's most interesting artists.

5) Schoenherr Gallery at North Central College in Naperville, "Brian Ritchard: Turbine Paintings Series"

Evocative, moody landscape paintings à la the Dutch 17th century, with wistful wind turbines poignantly dotting the land.

6) Kavi Gupta Gallery, "Claire Sherman: Funeral Mountain"

Engaged and intense painterly images, each completed in a single day.

7) Corbett vs. Dempsey, "Rebecca Shore: Barely Committed to Three Dimensions"

These hard-edged, quasi-Op abstract paintings managed to induce great pleasure, and a bit of a headache.

8) Museum of Contemporary Art, "Doris Salcedo"

Retrospective of the poetic, politically sober Columbia-based artist was a quiet triumph, a show for grownups.

9) Chicago Cultural Center, "Richard Hunt: Sixty Years of Sculpture"

Excellent overview justifies 80-year old Hunt's position as perhaps the youngest old master in art.

10) Western Exhibitions, "Nicholas Frank: Post-Self"

New work by the most interesting artist in Milwaukee, a more competitive distinction than you would guess.