

BLOUINARTINFO

5 Must-See Gallery Shows - Nancy Graves, Steven Cox, and More

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Nancy Graves, *Dissilient*, 1977, Oil on encaustic on four canvases, 36 x 94 in.

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Hey, did you know it's freezing outside? In the spirit of not-having-to-walk-great-distances-in-sub-zero-temperatures, we present a special edition of Must-See Gallery Shows, all within a few short blocks of each other in windswept Chelsea.

Nancy Graves at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, through March 7 (534 West 26th Street)

This exhibition of film, painting, and sculpture from the late artist — who had a solo show at the Whitney in 1969, and died in 1995 — is a tightly curated masterpiece. “Lixit,” 1979, with its fuzzed-out background evoking an airbrush effect, could be a Michael Williams painting from 30 seconds ago. “Xola,” 1977, is a tangle of color, line, and blank-canvas breathing room, a compositional jungle hiding several camels. That beast makes an appearance elsewhere — in the floor sculpture “Inside Outside,” in which it’s deconstructed into bits and pieces, and in “Head on Spear,” a furry, impaled camel head that seems to be surveying the entire show, barely suppressing a smirk. 1971’s “Bone Finger,” suspended from the ceiling, hangs tufts of dirtied gauze on a steel armature to create an enigmatic totem. And Graves shows her facility with bronze in the multi-part “Measure,” 1978, a cluster of fecal or intestinal nests that manage to be loveable despite the associations they evoke.