

HYPERALLERGIC

Best of 2018: Our Top 20 Exhibitions Across the United States

Art visualizing identity and community took center stage in our top 20 exhibitions across the United States for 2018.



[HyperallergicDecember 20, 2018](#)

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Of 72 by Ebony Patterson (detail view)
(image by Sarah Rose Sharp)

In 2018, artists and curators across the United States have been crafting brilliant exhibitions across the US, exploring themes of identity and community in innovative ways.

Ebony G. Patterson made a maximalist tribute to victims of violence in her home country of Jamaica, while Joel Otterson crafted work recalling his parents' professions as a seamstress and plumber. Indigenous artists took the stage at the Anchorage Museum's *Unsettled* and Jeffrey Gibson's *This is the Day* at the Wellin Museum. The enthralling official Obama portraits, painted by Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald, were revealed at the National Gallery in DC, putting Black

fine artists into the national consciousness. This list is an insight into the tastes of our US writers and the shows that moved them.

19. *Many Visions, Many Versions* at the Weisman Museum



Ram Sign Urveti,
“Woodpecker and the
Ironsmith” (2011), acrylic
on canvas (image courtesy
Sneha Ganguly)

*October 6,
2018–January 6,
2019*

This astounding
exhibition,
organized by
BINDU modern

Gallery and curated by Dr. Aurogeeta Das, Dr. David Szanton, and Jeffrey Wechsler, explodes with patterns, dazzling colors, and nonlinear storytelling. A survey of contemporary artists working in Indigenous traditions throughout India, the vivid pieces by 24 artists emanate with a powerful spirit. Manisha Jha’s intricate and wondrous “Tree of Life” paintings, Jangarh Singh Shyam’s strange and fantastic beasts, Rani Jha’s and Swarna Chitrakar’s bold treatment of political issues and current events, and Ram Singh Urveti’s mysterious depictions of Gods and myths, are just some of the remarkable works from this show. —*Sheila Regan*