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## Robert's Picks

Pat Steir *Color Wheel* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 2018-19 oil on canvas 30 paintings, each 108 x 84 inches, Photo: Lee Stalworth. Courtesy of Pat Steir and Lévy Gorvy.

ALL THE SEASONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO VISIT THE SUPERIOR ART MUSEUMS IN OUR AREA, BUT WINTER IS ESPECIALLY SO. HERE ARE FOUR EXHIBITS THAT ARE DEFINITELY WORTH SEEING:

**1** Every color combination produces a different sensation. You can experience this optical phenomenon by seeing the largest painting installation by the acclaimed abstract painter, Pat Steir. Hosted by the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden** in Washington, D.C., the exhibit spans nearly four hundred linear feet. When presented together, the thirty large-scale paintings “create an immense color wheel that shifts hues with each painting, with the poured paint on each canvas often appearing in the complementary hue of the monochrome background.” The show is open through September 7, 2020. [hirshhorn.si.edu](http://hirshhorn.si.edu)

**2** The Hechinger Company was a major hardware and home supply chain headquartered in Maryland. Although it filed for bankruptcy in the 1990s, Hechinger Company partner John Hechinger acquired enough wealth to build a significant collection of 20th century art. Through art, Hechinger wanted to focus attention on the ingenuity, creative design, and craftsmanship of functional tools. **The Mitchell Gallery at St. John's College** is showcasing the collection in an exhibit titled: *Retooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection*. The show runs from January 9-February 23, 2020. For details, visit [sjc.edu/annapolis/mitchell-gallery](http://sjc.edu/annapolis/mitchell-gallery).

**3** Two exhibits in Baltimore are especially worth seeing. **The Baltimore Museum of Art** is hosting *Adorned: African Women and the Art of Identity* through June 19, 2020. Throughout the 19th and 20th Century, artistic labor across sub-Saharan Africa was divided by gender. While men worked in wood and metal, women worked with clay, cloth, and beads. This exhibit brings together works from the BMA's collection to demonstrate the critical role of women in shaping aesthetic culture in Africa. For more information, visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

**4** **The Walters Museum** in Baltimore is presenting *From Mucha to Morris: Books of the Art Nouveau*, a selection of 12 Art Nouveau books by William Morris, Alphonse Mucha, and others. From these stunning books, you can see the whimsical and romantic designs of the 19th century Art Nouveau movement. The show is open through April 19, 2020. Visit [thewalters.org](http://thewalters.org) to learn more.

Robert Haywood has a Ph.D. in art and architecture history from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His book, *Allan Kaprow and Claes Oldenburg: Art, Happenings and Cultural Politics*, is out now from Yale University Press, London. To order, visit [yalebooks.com](http://yalebooks.com).