GARDEN STATE ART GUIDE
All Things Contemporary Art in New Jersey.

Oct 14 · 5 min read

10 Museum Shows to See in New Jersey This Fall

Updated: Oct 15

From a landmark Hank Willis Thomas retrospective to a rare Basquiat reunion, these 10 museum shows are worth the visit across New Jersey. The dates listed are closing dates.

1. ***Thaddeus Mosley: American Treasure*** **| Morris Museum**
   Through October 25, 2026



American Treasure, installation view. On view at The Morris Museum through Oct 25, 2026. Credit: Dawn Joseph Photography.

The Morris Museum honors the legacy of Modernist sculptor Thaddeus Mosley (1926-2026) in one of the first posthumous exhibitions of his work: ***Thaddeus Mosley: American Treasure***. Using only a hatchet and gouge, Mosley transformed fallen timber from his native Pennsylvania forests into biomorphic forms built from notched sections. Interested in the relationship between weight and space, he built totemic, cantilevered structures influenced by Noguchi, Brancusi, and West African art that defy gravity and capture his rhythmic, improvisational approach.

2. ***Nadia Myre: Analog/ues*** **| Montclair Art Museum**
   Through January 17, 2027



Nadia Myre: Analog/ues, installation view. Photo courtesy of Montclair Art Museum.

The Montclair Art Museum presents the first major U.S. solo exhibition of Canadian Indigenous artist Nadia Myre in ***Nadia Myre: Analog/ues***. Spanning sculpture, video, textiles, and text, the exhibition pairs more than 40 of Myre's works, including never-before-seen pieces, with historic objects from the museum's renowned Native American Art collection. Through process-based mediums like beadwork and weaving, Myre reinterprets historic records, such as wampum belts and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, to challenge how Native and settler histories of North America are recorded, remembered, and understood.

3. ***African, American: On the Art of Troy Jones*** **| Hunterdon Art Museum**
   Through January 10, 2027



African, American: On the Art of Troy Jones, installation view. Photo: Jordan Villagra.

Portraiture traditionally makes subjects visible, but in ***African, American: On the Art of Troy Jones***, Jersey City artist Troy Jones complicates what that visibility means. Through bold portraits of contemporary African American figures wearing traditional African masks, he honors their ancestral heritage while addressing the historical erasure of African American identity in dominant narratives. By juxtaposing African tradition with modern American identity, he asserts that both are essential to understanding the African American experience.

4. ***Hank Willis Thomas: LOVERULES – From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation*** **| Zimmerli Art Museum**
   Through December 20, 2026



Hank Willis Thomas: LOVERULES, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation. installation view. Photo courtesy of the Jordan D. Schnitzer Family Foundation.

Hank Willis Thomas: LOVERULES – From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation brings together nearly 90 iconic photographs, sculptures, and installations by the New Jersey-born conceptual artist and activist at the Zimmerli Art Museum. Reworking familiar images and advertising language, Thomas explores how mass media shapes and reinforces society's perceptions of race, identity, and power. *LOVERULES* challenges the dominant cultural narratives we've all been fed and invites viewers to prioritize love and empathy as civic values over the systems and rules that perpetuate separation and inequality.

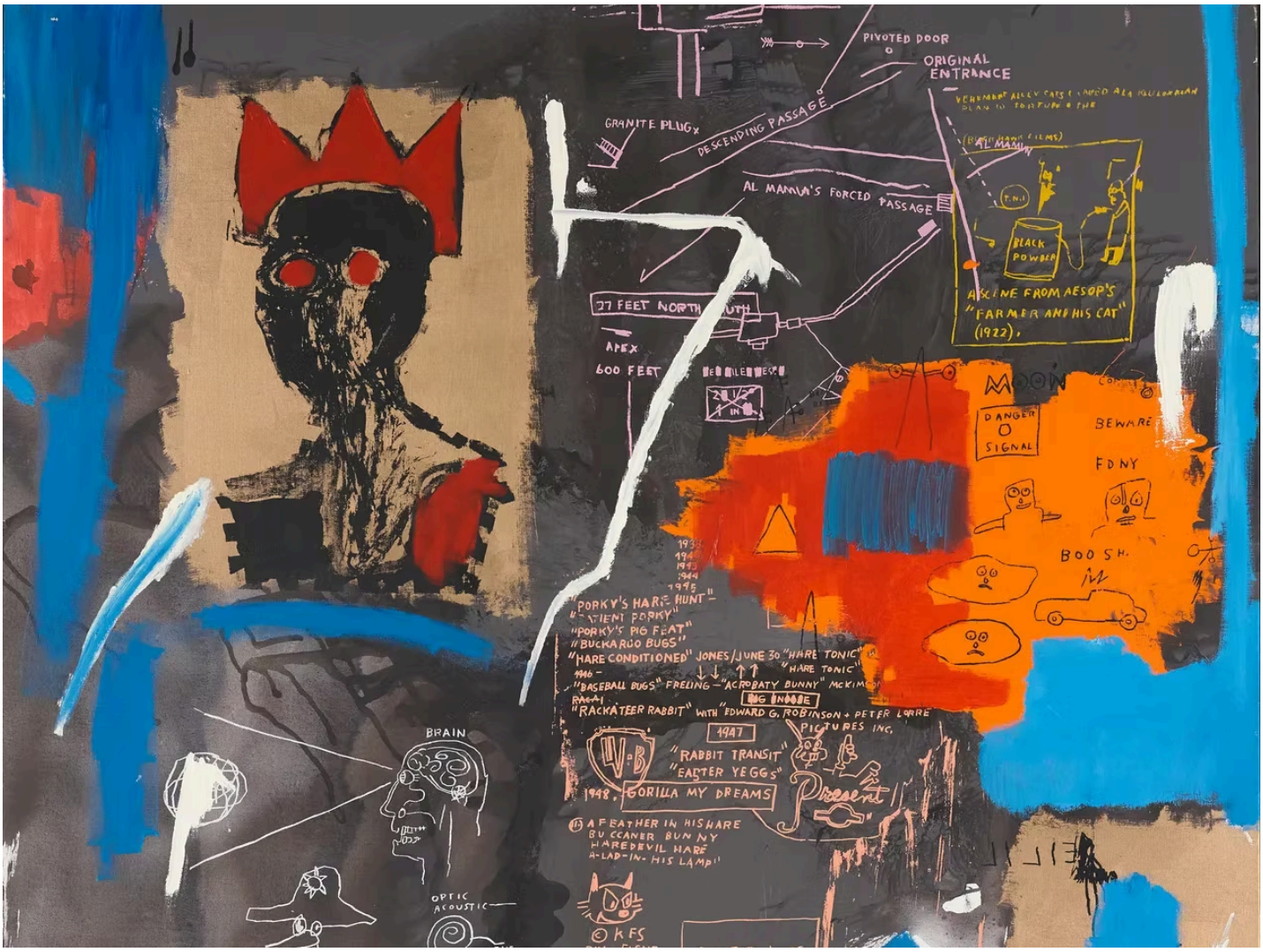
5. ***Portals and Passages*** **| Museum of American Glass at WheatonArts**
   Through December 31, 2026



Cradle, Romina Gonzales and Jason Bauer. Photo: Constance Mensh.

At the Museum of American Glass at WheatonArts, home to one of the country's most comprehensive glass collections, ***Portals & Passages*** brings together five contemporary glass artists who push the medium's physical and optical possibilities. Experimenting with surface, transparency, and refraction, they transform flat sheets of glass into three-dimensional sculptures that shift perception.

6. ***Basquiat, the Blue Ribbon Paintings, and the Art of Reproduction*** **| Princeton University Art Museum**
   Through January 31, 2027



Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Blue Ribbon II*, 1984. Private collection. Artwork: © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York.

For the first time in more than 30 years, Basquiat's rare 11-piece 1984 *Blue Ribbon* series is reunited, shown alongside nearly all of his known print projects in ***Basquiat, the Blue Ribbon Paintings, and the Art of Reproduction*** at the Princeton University Art Museum. Through the lens of printmaking, the exhibition highlights how Basquiat's engagement with mechanical replication and reproductive media influenced the layered style of his painted works. Accompanying works by Robert Blackburn and Robert Rauschenberg position Basquiat within a broader printmaking tradition that reflected 1980s visual culture and an increasingly commercialized art world.

7. **Precious & Temporary | Visual Arts Center of New Jersey**
   Through January 10, 2027



For Mom–Vigil, Nicholas D'Ornellas.

Family heirlooms, photographs, and archives take on new forms and meanings in ***Precious & Temporary*** at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Working across photography, sculpture, video, textiles, and installation, five artists transform personal histories into collective reflections on migration, identity, and cultural inheritance. Together, they represent how the past is only as valuable as what it tells us about our world today.

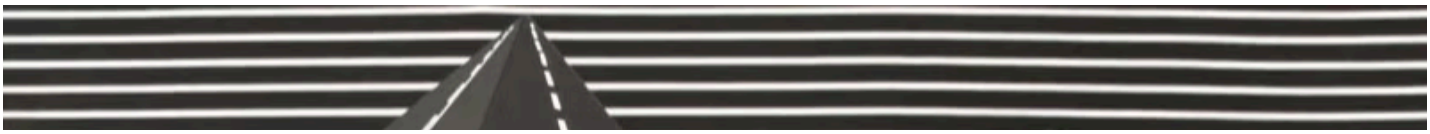
8. **Voices in Print: New Jersey Black Women Printmakers Shaping the American Narrative | Morven Museum & Garden**
   Through February 28, 2027



YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME THE LOVE I NEED, Mickalene Thomas.

The Morven Museum & Garden presents ***Voices in Print: New Jersey Black Women Printmakers Shaping the American Narrative***, bringing together generations of Black women artists connected to New Jersey, from pioneers Emma Amos and Gladys Barker Grauer to contemporary artists Sondra Perry and Mickalene Thomas. Drawing on printmaking's historical roots as a tool of activism, dissemination, and resistance, the exhibition celebrates how Black women artists have used the medium to shape a more diverse American narrative that reflects New Jersey's rich cultural heritage.

9. ***DREAMTIME IN NEWARK Aljira and the Making of Global Contemporary Art*** **| Newark Museum of Art**
   Through June 20, 2027



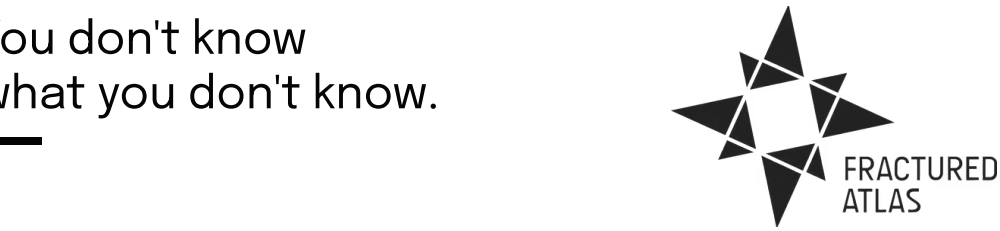
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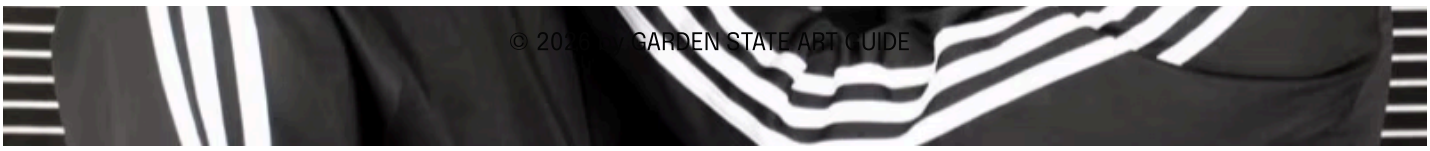
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Crossroads, Derrick Adams.

DREAMTIME IN NEWARK: Aljira and the Making of Global Contemporary Art revisits the 35-year legacy of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art. This Newark art space championed emerging, socially engaged artists and helped shape the city’s contemporary art scene from 1983 to 2018. Featuring works by 46 local and international artists connected to the space, the exhibition traces Aljira’s evolution from an artist-led alternative space into an institution with global reach. Organized by the Aljira Archive Project in partnership with the Newark Museum of Art, the exhibition celebrates their longstanding institutional collaboration and Aljira’s lasting influence on contemporary art.

10. ***Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future*** **| Grounds for Sculpture**
    Through July 23, 2028



Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future, installation view. Photo: Roshni Khatri.

Shantell Martin brings her signature improvisational, black-and-white line drawings to the walls of Grounds for Sculpture, along with textiles, interactive activities, and a new outdoor sculpture in ***Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future***. This immersive, site-specific installation invites viewers to meditate on their personal relationship with time, reflect on how the past informs our present, and envision how the choices we make today shape our collective future.

Explore more shows across New Jersey