

# Art in America



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812 MAY 2016 COVER BY JORDAN WOLFSON

*A concise guide to some of the most exciting new exhibitions, art fairs, and festivals opening in May.*



## MAGIC MOUNTAINS

Along a stretch of Interstate 15, just south of Las Vegas, seven stone towers, each about thirty feet tall and painted in fluorescent colors, loom over the desert landscape. Artist Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*, an installation jointly commissioned by the Nevada Museum of Art and Art Production Fund, continues the region's rich history of Land art interventions. Slated to be on view for two years, Rondinone's "mountains" stand only a short distance from Jean Dry Lake, the site of 1960s Earthworks by Jean Tinguely and Michael Heizer, making the Nevada desert (literally) the hottest art destination of the moment.

*Interstate 15, Nevada, opening May 10.*

## FRIEZE NEW YORK

Thousands crowd the ferries to Randall's Island this month for the annual Frieze New York art fair, now in its fifth edition. Aside from standard gallery presentations this year's program, curated by the High Line's public art director Cecilia Alemani, features new commissions by artists like Alex Da Corte, whose inflatable balloon work will float above the fair, and David Horvitz, who has hired a professional pickpocket to plant miniature sculptures into visitors' pockets and purses. Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan will also stage a tribute to the Daniel Newburg Gallery, the defunct alternative New York art space where he had his US debut in 1994.

*Randall's Island Park, New York, May 5–8.*

## THE BRIEF

### YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

The Yale Center for British Art, housed in a glass-and-steel landmark building designed by American architect Louis I. Kahn and completed in 1977, reopens following a major interior conservation and reinstallation of its centuries-spanning collection—the largest holding of British art outside of the UK. The Center's inaugural exhibition, "Modernism and Memory: Rhoda Pritzker and the Art of Collecting," gathers more than one hundred works from the personal collection of the British journalist and philanthropist, who acquired early pieces by the likes of Anthony Caro, Barbara Hepworth, and William Turnbull.

*Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Conn., reopening May 11.*

### ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena, who won the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2016, curates the fifteenth edition of the Venice Architecture Biennale, titled "Reporting from the Front." Covering topics such as segregation, access to sanitation, natural disasters, migration, and pollution, the exhibition is a call for architects to improve common lives, jibing with the mission of Aravena's Santiago-based firm, Elemental S.A., which emphasizes social welfare projects.

*Giardini and Arsenal, Venice, May 28–Sept. 27.*



### PALESTINIAN MUSEUM

Three days after Nakba Day, the commemoration of Palestinian displacement following Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence (celebrated by Israelis the day before), the Palestinian Museum, designed by the Dublin-based firm Heneghan Peng, opens in the West Bank town of Birzeit. The 43,000-square-foot, energy-efficient structure, located next to the local university, is meant to commemorate Palestinian culture and connect a diasporic people. To that end, the museum's first

Digital rendering of Ugo Rondinone: *Seven Magic Mountains*, 2016.



Digital rendering of the Palestinian Museum. © The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit.

exhibition, "Never-part," offers an alternative reading of history, collecting over 280 treasured objects and contextual interviews from everyday Palestinians living around the world.

*Palestinian Museum, Birzeit, opening May 18.*

### LESLIE HEWITT

New York-based artist Leslie Hewitt's practice "melds a cool conceptual idiom with the warmth of personal effects and a loose commentary on race, gender and class," according to a 2013 review in this magazine. "Leslie Hewitt: Collective Space," co-organized by Toronto's Power Plant, where the show originated, features lithographs, sculptures, and two film installations produced with cinematographer Bradford Young. The subtle but poetic film *Untitled (Structures)*, 2012, comprises contemporary vignettes shot in various US cities impacted by the Great Migration and Civil Rights movement.

*SculptureCenter, Long Island City, N.Y., May 1–Aug. 1.*

View of Leslie Hewitt and Bradford Young, *Stills*, 2016, three-channel video installation; at the Power Plant, Toronto. Courtesy Lucien Terras, New York. Photo Toni Hafkenscheid.