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Three Exhibits Worth a Fall Trip to Texas



PHOTO: David Woo

Texas is primed to be awash in singular art exhibits, with three different museums—in three different cities—launching major exhibitions this fall.

Fort Worth, as always, is leading the charge, particularly at Tadao Ando's Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (pictured), deemed "one of the world's most beautiful art museums" by T+L. From September 20 to January 10, 2016, the museum presents Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic, originally organized by the Brooklyn Museum.

The show entails 60 works by Wiley, who is in the permanent collection of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Wiley mixes contemporary street culture with the portraiture of such European masters as Titian and Van Dyck: the results, such as Wiley's arresting portrait "Shantavia Beale II," span the ages and bring a certain gravity to contemporary culture.

Also on September 20, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) launches Mark Rothko: A Retrospective. The exhibition, with more than 60 paintings from the master, infuses abstraction with beauty, and remains on view until January 24, 2016. MFAH is the only U.S. museum to present the Rothko exhibition, which culls the extensive Rothko holdings of the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Houston, as it happens, is home to the Rothko Chapel, one of the Rothko's most renowned public commissions.

On October 11, the Dallas Museum of Art opens International Pop. The exhibition, organized by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, examines the domination of pop art in the 1960s and 1970s. Unlike previous pop art exhibitions, International Pop studies the global scope of pop art, from Nouveau Realisme in France to Japan's Anti-Art movement. This is a show that thinks big, very big—but then again, Texas is a place that believes in living large, and having lots of contemporary art handy.

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