

VULTURE

VULTURE RECOMMENDS | UPDATED 4:00 P.M.

The Couch Gallery Crawl

By Thomas Benfield



Tour Courtauld Gallery in London, virtually. Photo: Courtauld Gallery

Each week, we're gathering the art world's latest and best virtual museum and gallery offerings. Here, how to look at art from the safety of home.

1. Remember **Frieze Week**? All the parties made for selfies and that fancy-pants ferry ride to Randall's Island where you could browse and eat Roberta's pizza? Now it's all on your laptop. From May 8 to 15, see Frieze's reinterpretation of what their New York art fair would have been, with over 200 virtual viewing rooms subbing for booths. It's now more generous to video art and narrative content, though far, far worse for taking selfies.
2. Closed since 2018 for renovations, the **Courtauld Gallery** in London has now opened its virtual doors. Upon entry, turn around to see the green skin of a crucified Jesus in Botticelli's *The Trinity With Saints*. In the first doorway, notice Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait With Bandaged Ear*, 1889.
3. **Signs and Symbols** presents *The Bureaucracy of Angels* — a video work that incorporates artist duo Broomberg & Chanarin's footage taken of the Migrant Offshore Aid Station's rescue missions off the coast of Libya. The work documents the destruction of 100 migrant boats by a crane fitted with hydraulic jaws. At times, computer-generated imaging shows the jaws remorsefully singing, other times tearing vessels apart. What's stirring about this video work is the tension between the subject matter and the personification of the crane — its subjectivity somehow provides a more objective take on a crisis of our own making.
4. The **Institute of Contemporary Art Miami** has commissioned four video works from Miami artists Cristine Brache, Domingo Castillo, Faren Humes, and Terence Price II. See Brache's *Morning Sickness in the USA*, where she sets a narrative to found footage of pregnancy examinations and viruses attacking cells. The narrative comes from a recorded phone call with her grandmother, who recounts a mystery illness that quarantined her in a mental asylum in 1961.

5. **Mass MoCA** has a web version of their exhibition “Sol Lewitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective.” I know what you’re thinking — there’s no way a wall-drawing exhibition can translate online, and it probably doesn’t, but there are still 105 expertly curated works and well-researched biographical blurbs to sort through. At the very least, noticing the astounding diversity flourishing within such limited constraints is enough to transport you out of your apartment for at least a second, at least in spirit.

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6. “Too Long, Didn’t Read,” Candice Breitz’s new online exhibition at the **Baltimore Museum of Art**, includes two multichannel video installations: first, the eponymously acronymic *TLDR* explores cultural debates surrounding sex work and human-rights campaigns on behalf of sex workers. The second video, *Love Story*, contrasts the allure of stardom with the tribulations of the global refugee crisis.

7. In **Di Donna**’s online exhibition of Portuguese-born modernist Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, you can see her attention to multiple perspectives, a convention that grounds her abstractions in a “thought form rather than a realistic form,” as she puts it. It’s very pleasant to look at.

8. Expanding on its mission to facilitate collaboration and spur new experiences, the Brooklyn art/food/flowers pop-up shop **Wifey** is selling drawings, prints, and photographs of flowers from a number of different artists, all for \$100. Send one as a gift, as you would a bouquet or Edible Arrangement, or keep one for yourself — either way you’ll aid the independent Brooklyn arts scene.

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