

NEW YORK

VULTURE

VULTURE RECOMMENDS | UPDATED APR. 16, 2020

The Couch Gallery Crawl

By Thomas Benfield



The Met, temporarily closed. Photo: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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. **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** is celebrating its 150th birthday the way so many of us are celebrating our birthdays: virtually. Check out its fantastic video series "82nd & Fifth." Curators and historians each choose their favorite artwork or objet d'art from the museum's collection and give a succinct and passionate argument for the work's beauty, historical relevance, and craftsmanship. Each video is about two minutes, and there are exactly 100 of them — so there's about three hours of your week right there.

2. Although **Howard Greenberg Gallery's** "One Third of a Nation: The Photographs of the Farm Security Administration" was long-planned, the exhibition takes on a new pertinence today. The show exhibits iconic documentary photography that serves as cultural landmarks of the Great Depression through the New Deal, 1935–46. See Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother*, Gordon Parks's *American Gothic*, and more.

3. This weekend, **Performa's** Radical Broadcast schedule is replete with a project called Time Share — video programming that explores the second life of performance art through documentation, and, in select pieces, imagines how social media may mediate our experience of iconic artworks (it sure is now). Works by Judy Chicago, Robert Rauschenberg, Xavier Cha, and many more will broadcast 24 hours a day.

4. The **National Gallery of Art's** "Degas at the Opéra" wasn't even open for two weeks before Washington, D.C., imposed its stay-at-home order, closing the gallery. It's since transposed this exhibition into a virtual gallery space. Use your arrow keys to float through a virtual-reality tour, read an overview essay, and watch a video devoted to helping you notice every detail of the seminal sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*.

5. Available until April 29, check out **Signs and Symbols'** online screening of *An Algorithm for Snowfall*, a two-channel video exhibition by Ornella Fieres. Two side-by-side videos play the same movie, one of them start to finish, the other in reverse. Through images like microbes, splitting cells, and human arctic endeavors, Fieres explores the supposed interconnectedness of synthetic human invention and the makeup of organic life. Try to notice the nearly imperceptible instant in which both channels meet, mirroring one another at their midpoints.

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6. **Timothy Taylor**, with the curatorial eye of Katy Hessel — the curator and historian behind [The Great Women Artists](#) — will exhibit “Dwelling Is the Light,” an exhibition that investigates freedom in the natural world, domesticity, and the diametrically opposed terms it conjures: equally a sense of home for women and a sociohistorical confine. See [Vija Celmins’s *Starfield*, 2010](#); [Hilary Pecis’s *Fish and Bird*, 2019](#); and more.

7. The **Institute of Classical Architecture & Art** offers courses, lectures, and articles on classical language, destinations, architecture, craftsmanship, landscape, and urbanism all online. For free, you can peruse its articles and videos. See [Ian Wardropper](#), director of the Frick Collection, explain the importance and intricacies of remodeling structures that house some of the finest works of Western painting.

8. **Sargent’s Daughters** has begun an ongoing exhibition titled “[Small Joys](#).” To get the most out of this exhibition, [subscribe](#) to Sargent’s Daughters’ newsletter and receive a weekly write-up on a single work of art. Each work for the exhibition’s duration will be priced under \$5,000 as an attempt to encourage participation in healing the stunted growth of the art economy.

9. **The Chimney** presents “[The Three Metamorphoses](#),” a solo exhibition of works by Lino Bernabe. The six site-specific paintings are installed over the gallery’s windows. They depict an erratic selection of imagery from Greek myths, Florida folklore, African stories, Christian and Hindu symbols, all chosen for their shared therianthropy — the mythical human-to-animal transformation. These disparately culled images are visually homogenized as the gallery lights flit from green, to blue, to red. As the light affects the canvases, a metamorphosis takes place, as certain lights privilege certain pigments and hues. Just wear a mask if you venture out to see it, please.

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