

September 7, 2018
By Editors

THINGS EDITORS LIKE

T Suggests: Nostalgic Prada, Otherworldly Paintings by a Radical Recluse and More

A by-no-means exhaustive list of the things our editors (and a few contributors) find interesting this week.

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Left: Vivian Springford, "Untitled (Tanzania Series)," 1971. Right: Vivian Springford, "Untitled (Martinique Series)," 1974. Matt Kroening

A Quietly Radical Recluse Gets Her Due

The midcentury artist Vivian Springford created radiant, large-scale paintings whose organic shapes and rings of overlapping stain call to mind otherworldly fried eggs and sunsets captured between microscope slides. By the time her work started attracting attention in the 1960s, Springford was in her fifties — decades older than most of the emerging stars of the New York art world. This generational disconnect, along with Springford’s introverted temperament, led to her retreat from the public eye. Living alone in a Manhattan apartment, she kept to herself and continued to paint despite a struggle with macular degeneration. A volunteer for an organization devoted to the care of Manhattan’s elderly shut-ins discovered her cache of work and introduced it to the gallerist Gary Snyder, who gave Springford an exhibition in 1998 and mounted a memorial show in 2003, the year of her death at the age of 90. Fifteen years later, Almine Rech’s New York gallery will display thirteen of her pieces, none of which have been seen before. The exhibition and its accompanying monograph are the first step in an initiative to preserve Springford’s legacy. In addition to promoting her work at art fairs and mount shows around Europe, the gallery is working on a catalogue raisonné that will enable scholars to research the artist’s life and work. “She was making ambitious and innovative paintings that stood the test of time in their radicalness,” says Paul de Froment, the director of the New York gallery. “She wasn’t an enfant terrible, she just made innovative paintings and wanted to show them. She deserves this.” *Sept. 12-Oct. 20, Almine Rech Gallery, 39 East 78th Street, Second floor, New York City, alminerech.com.* — LAUREN MECHLING
