



Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend

From a portal to the Utah monolith at David Zwirner to Vivian Springford's meditative paintings at Almine Rech

November 13, 2020



Installation views of Vivian Springford, Almine Rech New York, November 13, 2020 - January 13, 2021. Courtesy Almine Rech. Photo: Dan Bradica.

Vivian Springford

Until 13 January 2021 at Almine Rech, 39 East 78th Street, Manhattan

This exhibition hosts nearly 20 paintings by the long overlooked abstractionist Vivian Springford. The works date from 1969 and 1984, only a few years before Springford stopped painting due to failing eyesight. The paintings on view were made through a canvas-dying process not unlike her contemporaries Helen Frankenthaler, Morris Louis, or Sam Francis, though the final products feel slow and meditative when compared to the fierce action present in the canvases of so many of her fellow Abstract Expressionists. Springford maintained that her primary influence was Chinese calligraphy and other East Asian thoughtforms, including Taoism and Confucianism, all of which were introduced to her by the painter and poet Walasse Ting. The influence is discernible in these paintings, which ripple out from central points to create mesmerising and centrifugal compositions that would look equally at home at a Buddhist monastery or on a Grateful Dead t-shirt. Though Springford scarcely exhibited in her lifetime, her entire estate was purchased by former gallerist Gary Snyder after her death in 2003, and in 2018 the estate became represented by Almine Rech. This is her second posthumous solo show with the gallery. —Wallace Ludel