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Museums & Institutions

Which Artists Are Big at U.S. Museums This Month? I Scoured Hundreds of Shows to Find Out

These 6 figures top our tally for June 2025.

I'm back with my quarterly look at which artists are getting the most attention from museums in the United States.

by Ben Davis

How This Project Works: For this project, I comb through the temporary exhibitions on view at more than **250 museums**, counting which living artists were on view during the same month. The list this time includes over **4,500 names**. Only a few hundred artists appeared in more than one exhibition this month. Because I'm most interested in breadth of influence, I don't make any distinctions between bigger and smaller institutions. I rank career retrospectives highly, followed by dedicated exhibition, followed by special commissions or spotlights on a specific work, biennial appearances, and then inclusions in group shows. There's no central source for all this data, and museum websites are not always complete or reliable. If I missed anything, send me an email.

Thoughts on June's List: The biggest force shaping the list continues to be the large number of shows celebrating Indigenous contemporary artists that are touring the country. **Cara Romero** and **Sky Hopinka** were both at the top of my March list, and remain among the most visible artists three months later. The artist I think is having the second best month, **Jeffrey Gibson**, appears alongside Romero and Hopinka in "Indigenous Identities" at the **Zimmerli Art Museum** at Rutgers University in New Jersey. So too does Andrea Carlson, who just misses the top of my top list here, but who a big mural at the University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor and a commission for the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago.

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4. Sky Hopinka



Installation view of Sky Hopinka, *Sunflower Siege Engine* (2022). Courtesy of the artist, and Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Los Angeles

Hopinka is featured in Cecilia Alemani's just-opened "Once Within a Time" biennial at Site Santa Fe. Meanwhile, two recently opened shows on climate change incorporate his work as well: "From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains" in Omaha and "Black Earth Rising" in Baltimore.

Spotlights:

—"Collection Focus / Sky Hopinka: Sunflower Siege Engine" at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, March 12–August 17

Biennials:

—"Once Within a Time" at Site Santa Fe, N.M., June 27, 2025 — January 12, 2026

Tanya Leighton

Groups:

—“Sovereign Memory: Photography, Remembrance, and Displaced Histories” at the Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Mass., February 7-June 1

—“Widening the Lens: Photography, Ecology, and the Contemporary Landscape” at the Phoenix Art Museum, February 26-June 15

—“Exploding Native Inevitable” at the Sheldon Museum of Art, Middlebury, Vt., February 7-July 13

—“Smoke in Our Hair: Native Memory and Unsettled Time” at the Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, N.Y., February 14-August 31

—“Ways of Knowing” at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, March 8-September 7

—“Black Earth Rising” at the Baltimore Museum of Art, May 18-September 21

—“From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains: The Visible Currents of Climate Change” at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, Neb., June 13-September 14

—“Indigenous Identities: Here, Now & Always” at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., February 1-December 21