

Tanya Leighton

FRIEZE

The Top Ten Shows Around the World in 2023

From the 'horizontal' methodology of the 35th São Paulo Biennial to Suki Seokyeong Kang's immersive landscapes in Seoul



Elif Saydam, *THIS TENDER THAT RENT*, 2023, installation view. Courtesy: the artist and Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens; photograph: Laura Findlay

The presence of several biennials in this list underlines the growing presence of this exhibition format in the international scene. But solo exhibitions underscore the developments of individual ecologies across the world as well, such as Michele Chu's rituals of grief on view at PHD group, Hong Kong, or Na Chainkua Reindorf's cosmology at Nubuke Foundation. In no particular order, here are the best shows from around the world in 2023.

Elif Saydam, Oakville Galleries, Canada

In their first major exhibition in their native Canada, 'Eviction Notice', the Berlin-based artist Elif Saydam expresses the aesthetics of neighbourhoods

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where immigrant, queer and artist communities overlap. In *THIS TENDER THAT RENT* (2022–23), they pun on the simultaneously warm and transactional elements of living in a such a city. In others, they draw upon the signage of late-night shops in Berlin; convenience stores in Oakville; decorative motifs in Turkish tiling. **‘Think of this show as a neighbourhood,’** Xenia Benivolski suggested in her review for the upcoming January/February issue, ‘and the small works anchoring it... as functioning like the cherished storefronts that dot the working-class areas in most large cities.’