

Aesthetica

5 To See This Weekend



Our 5 to See this week draws on both old and new practices, providing an excellent introduction to shows leading the way this February. In New York, Laura Poitras confronts pressing political issues in her first solo exhibition at [The Whitney Museum](#), while in Berlin, [Veneklasen/Werner](#) looks back to cultural disturbances in 1960s Japan through the eyes of influential artist Koji Enokura. Elsewhere, the perception of the present is explored in [Modern Art Oxford](#)'s first instalment of its 50th anniversary programme, and fashion photographer Hiro's dynamic legacy is celebrated in a survey of images at [Hamiltons](#).

1. Koji Enokura, [Veneklasen/Werner](#), Berlin

Koji Enokura (1942–1995) was an important figure in post-war Japanese art and a founding member of the Mono-ha group, whose work developed primarily in response to the cultural and political disturbances of the 1960s. With the intention of breaking from traditional approaches to painting and sculpture, Enokura was fascinated by the tension between the visceral potency of materials and the contingency of the body.

Veneklasen/Werner displays several photographs documenting Enokura's first mature works, which illustrate the artist's fervent search for unconventional beauty in the mundane, the accidental and the overlooked, alongside a variety of silkscreen prints on paper.

2. ***KALEIDOSCOPE: The Invisible Present***, **Modern Art Oxford**

Modern Art Oxford launches its 50th anniversary programme, *KALEIDOSCOPE*, with an exploration into how we perceive the present and an examination of time from 'unconventional' perspectives. *The Invisible Present* brings to light works in film, photography, sculpture and installation from an international party of artists including Douglas Gordon, John Latnam, Yoko Ono, Pierre Huyghe, Elizabeth Price, Dog Kennel Hill Project and Viola Yesiltac. Throughout 2016, *KALEIDOSCOPE* will present iconic works from the past alongside new commissions by acclaimed practitioners from the current generation.

3. Lucio Fontana, **Robilant & Voena**, St Moritz

Focusing on the experimental and innovative nature of Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)'s work, this exhibition presents a selection of pieces in various mediums, portraying the different phases of the artist's career from 1950 -1968. The show explores Fontana's extensive oeuvre, and pays particular attention to his painted canvases and works on metal and ceramics. Each piece illustrates the artist's process of manipulating layers of canvas; scarring and destroying his materials, breaking through the traditional flat surface, and generating an entirely new dimension. The technical perfection achieved by the late stage of Fontana's career enabled him to successfully create beautifully balanced and rhythmical compositions.

4. Hiro, **Hamiltons**, London

Having grown up in Japan and moved to America in 1954, Hiro (b.1930) has documented both Eastern and Western cultures in his practice with a unique perspective. His work is characterised by its focus on abnormalities, surrealism and finding beauty in the extraordinary. Hiro has been widely recognised for his talent; in January 1982 *American Photographer* magazine devoted their entire issue to the artist asking the question, "Is this man America's greatest photographer?" The exhibition at Hamiltons showcases the breadth of Hiro's diverse and dynamic practice, exploring themes of fashion, portraiture, still life and studies of the human body through his photography.

5. Laura Poitras, *Astro Noise*, **The Whitney Museum**, New York

Opening this weekend, *Astro noise* is the first solo exhibition by artist, filmmaker and journalist Laura Poitras. This show expands on her project to document post 9/11 America; building on the artist's exploration of mass surveillance, the war on terror, the US Drone programme, Guantanamo bay prison, and themes of occupation and torture. Poitras has created immersive environments through an interrelated series of installations that incorporate documentary footage, architectural interventions, primary documents and narrative structures. These innovative structures invite visitors to interact with the material in strikingly intimate and direct ways, drawing attention to some of the most pressing issues of our time.