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OPINION

5 Must-See Gallery Shows in NYC This September

By [Margaret Carrigan](#) • 09/11/17 3:45pm



Aneta Bartos, *Zalew*, 2015. Edition of 5 + 2 AP. Archival inkjet print, 30 x 30.65 in. Aneta Bartos and Postmasters

This past weekend, galleries across New York City threw open their doors, the smell of touch-up wall paint still fresh in the air, as the art world's fall season officially kicked off. While [Kara Walker's seismic show at Sikkema Jenkins & Co.](#) may have had all the critics a-twitter before it even opened, we pounded the pavement to find a few other must-see September exhibitions.

Polly Apfelbaum at Alexander Gray

September 7–October 21



Installation view of "The Potential of Women." Alexander Gray Associates, New York

For 30 years, Apfelbaum has been making immersive installations that weave together fine art, craft, and design. For her first show with Alexander Gray, the artist creates a sherbet-tinted environment based on the design scheme of the patronizing 1963 book, *The Potential of Woman*, in which mostly male physicians and philosophers weigh in on possible psychological dislocations created by women's improved legal and political liberties over the course of the last century. Large handwoven carpets featuring a highly stylized pink and tangerine female faces take up the majority the gallery space. Walls horizontally striped in the same achingly sweet colors boast plate-sized ceramic works in largely primary hues; they're mounted linearly like a precious china collection on display. The space almost feels domestic, like your grandmother's house in cartoon form. It's this sense of humor and play, drawing on generations of female experience, that fills the scene with energetic potential.