

Art | Basel

By Karim Crippa | February 12, 2025

Editors' Picks: 7 shows not to miss, from punchy paintings to bold collages

As winter continues in the northern hemisphere, the Art Basel Editorial team recommends top exhibitions in Paris, Berlin, London, and New York

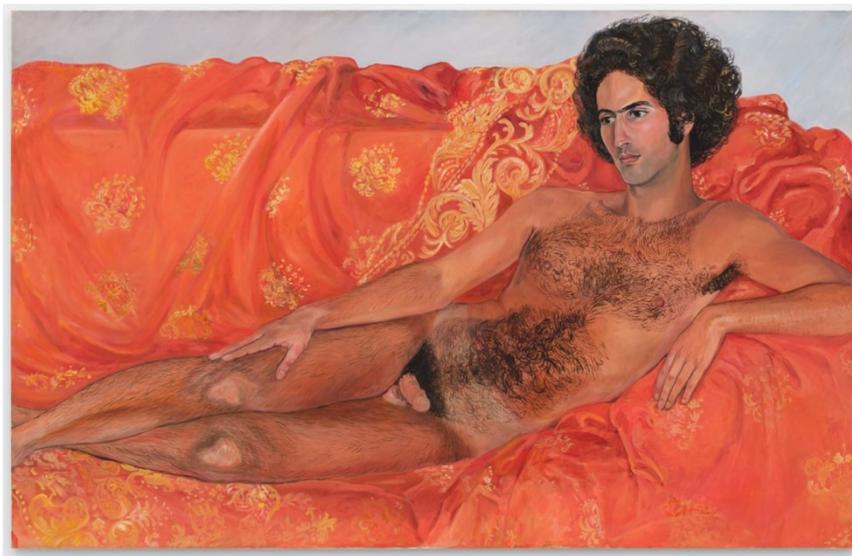
Sylvia Sleigh

'Every leaf is precious'

***Ortuzar*, New York**

February 12 to April 5, 2025

Does beauty only lie in the eye of the beholder, or could it also be found at the tip of a paintbrush? Sylvia Sleigh's portraits and allegories from the 1960s and 1970s, on view at Ortuzar in New York City, can certainly make you consider the latter hypothesis. The late Welsh-American artist is primarily known for her reinterpretation of historic nudes, in which male models pose in ways that recall Ingres's *La Grande Odalisque* (1814) or Manet's *Olympia* (1863). But Sleigh did not limit herself to this motif: she also painted more chaste portraits of friends, her husband, and fellow women from the 1970s New York art world. What underpins Sleigh's vast yet concise body of work, and the paintings exhibited at Ortuzar, is her ability to make bold formal choices – but never to the detriment of her subjects. As a result, beauty hazily beams off her radiant paintings, like heat from a sofa a lover might have just left after a nap. K.C.



Sylvia Sleigh, *Imperial Nude: Paul Rosano*, 1977. Courtesy of the Estate of Sylvia Sleigh and Ortuzar, New York. Photo: Steven Probert. © Estate of Sylvia Sleigh.



Sylvia Leigh, Triple Portrait of Philip, 1971. Courtesy of the Estate of Sylvia Leigh and Ortuzar, New York. Photo: Steven Probert. © Estate of Sylvia Leigh.