

The Museum Alternative

NY ART BEAT writer Brian Fee asks; “what gives? What is the benefit of seeing “not new” art in a gallery setting, as opposed to browsing the hallowed halls of the museums?”

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The creative electricity one feels while traversing the Tanguy/Calder “Between Surrealism and Abstraction” exhibition at L&M Arts carries with it the obvious question: why hasn’t this been done before? Meaning: why haven’t we seen Yves Tanguy’s arid landscapes of the subconscious in proximity to Alexander Calder’s biomorphic mobiles and sculpture? The answer is, in fact, “we” have: gallerist Pierre Matisse staged their first dual NYC show in the spring of 1943, and several of those works from that exhibition are on view here, their first reunion since. This is required viewing, so thoughtfully curated and harmonized. Though Calder may be more the household name stateside, Tanguy’s “alien desert” paintings are unequivocal, but I’ve never seen such multitude in one place before. A clever exhibition of this caliber should be in a museum (the Whitney? the Guggenheim?), but it is to L&M Arts’ credit that they composed it and host it, in this charming two-story suite, and it’s on us to check it out.