Branch out beyond Reagent’s Park and visit the best of what London’s galleries and institutions have to offer this October, from blue-chip heavy-hitters (Serra! Richter!) to exciting newcomers (e-cig smoking performance wildchild Korakrit Arunanondchai).

**Kai Althoff at Michael Werner Gallery, through November 15 (22 Upper Brook Street)**
This German artist shockingly hasn’t had a London show in around two decades. He should make a suitably weird splash during the fair with this show of surreal, oddly-shaped paintings (and one drawing); the exhibition coincides with the release of a new album by the artist, “FATAL 4.” (Check out this sample track for a taste of the lo-fi babbling-psyche-folk flavor.)

**Eric Fischl at Victoria Miro Gallery, October 13 through December 19 (16 Wharf Road)**
Everyone knows that the people-watching at fairs like Frieze often takes precedence over the actual art. Thankfully, Fischl has collapsed both together with a series (simply dubbed “Art Fair”) capturing the scenes of the flora and fauna of this particular commercial ecosystem — like a pair of collectors somberly appraising one of Claes Oldenberg’s bloated, drippy shoe sculptures.

**“Beware Wet Paint” at ICA London, through November 16 (The Mall)**
A show of painters “for whom painting forms a single strand within a multidisciplinary practice,” including Korakrit Arunanondchait, who uses denim as a canvas (and provides comfy pillows to sit on whilst admiring the works). Chic, Minimalist-leaning abstractionists Jeff Elrod, David Ostrowski, and Christopher Wool are joined by Isabelle cornaro, Pamela Rosenkranz, Ned Vena, and Parker Ito.
Ida Ekblad at Herald St (Two locations: 37 Golden Square and 2 Herald Street)
The funkily gestural painter takes over both of the gallery’s London spaces (including a new temporary space at 37 Golden Square.) At the Golden Square location, a massive black-and-white painting depicts a crying puppy dog among a field of scribbly puzzle pieces; the show itself is called “A gentle looking little alien of sorts.” Hey, we’re sold.

Lizzie Fitch and Ryan Trecartin at Zabulodwicz Collection, through December 21 (176 Prince of Wales Road)
New Yorkers are quite familiar with this duo’s over-the-top cinematic environments, following a blockbuster show at MoMA P.S.1 in 2011, but this is their debut collaborative outing in the United Kingdom. “The whole gallery will be turned into a unified space through the application of an internal skin of paint and carpet,” press materials promise — prepare to lose yourself.

Steve McQueen at Thomas Dane Gallery (3 & 11 Duke Street)
Academy Award-winner McQueen has proven that he can move fluidly between the white cube and the cineplex. For Frieze Week, he debuts “Ashes,” a brand new Super8 movie shot in the West Indies.

Paul McCarthy at Hauser & Wirth, through November 1 (23 Savile Row)
Sexually loaded, violent, occasionally scatological paintings (based on the Snow White story and a John Wayne movie) should titillate, offend, and perhaps spoil your appetite. As the gallery notes, it’s the first time McCarthy has hosted a painting-specific exhibition since the 1980s.

Gerhard Richter at Marian Goodman Gallery, through December 20 (5-8 Lower John Street)
Around 40 works from the living master inaugurate Marian Goodman’s brand new London space; many of the process-based abstractions were made using glass as a tool of sorts, joined by a delicately balanced, transparent sculpture, “7 Panes of Glass (House of Cards).”

Kerry James Marshall at David Zwirner Gallery, through November 22 (24 Grafton Street)
New paintings from the Chicago-based artist that “examine notions of observing, witnessing, and exhibiting” in this show, simply titled “Look See.”

Richard Tuttle at Whitechapel Gallery, through December 14 (77-82 Whitechapel High Street)
Get excited: The 73-year old American pioneer opens an experimental-textile-focused survey, which accompanies a large-scale, textile-based commission at Tate Modern’s Turbine Hall.

“Local History” at Dominique Levy Gallery, through January 24, 2015 (22 Old Bond Street)
The London companion to a historically-focused show also in New York, this three-person exhibition brings together works by Enrico Castellani, Frank Stella, and Donald Judd. (Check out Modern Painters’ conversation with the elusive Castellani here.)

Helen Chadwick at Richard Saltoun Gallery, through November 28 (111 Great Titchfield Street)
The gallery is showing the 13-part series of circular, framed photographs from 1992-93, “The Wreaths to Pleasure.” Lush and decidedly erotic, the works mix the natural and the chemical, showcasing “different flowers and fruits set against and within both pleasant and poisonous liquids: tomato juice, melted chocolate, and detergents and soaps like Windowlne, Fairy, Ariel, and Swarfega.”

An evening of performances at David Roberts Art Foundation, October 16, 7-10pm (13-15 Camden High Street)
A free event (so show up early, warn the organizers), with performances by Quinn Latimer and Megan Rooney, Joe Moran,
Planningtorock, Eloise Hawser, and Sarah Lucas, who will fry an egg.

**David Hammons** at White Cube, **through January 3, 2015 (25-26 Masons Yard)**
Prints, paintings obfuscated by textiles, and sculptural works (including one that incorporates a mink coat) fill the gallery’s Mason’s Yard space.

**Richard Serra** at Gagosian, **varying end dates (17-19 Davies Street, 6-24 Britannia Street)**
Four sculptures (three of them made this year) are on view at the Britannia Street outpost, through February 28, 2015; at the Davies Street location, Serra presents drawings, including one that’s over 16 feet long.

**Gillian Wearing** at Maureen Paley Gallery, **through November 16 (21 Herald Street)**
The British artist has the London debut of a new film, “We Are Here,” in which “people from the West Midlands present a series of monologues, speaking as if they have returned from the grave.”

**“MIRRORCITY” at the Hayward Gallery, through January 4, 2015 (Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road)**
A broad survey show that sets itself a rather capacious theme (exploring “the effect the digital revolution has had on our lives”). The exhibition includes previously unseen commissions by the likes of Lucky PDF, along with work by John Stezaker, Laure Provoust, and many others.

**Cécile B. Evans** at Seventeen, **through December 6 (270-276 Kingsland Road)**
The 2012 winner of Frieze’s Emdash Award’s show is titled “Hyperlinks,” and appears to feature a digital avatar of a young Philip Seymour Hoffman. Consider us suitably intrigued.