

Falb, Sam. "The Shows You Need to See in New York This October," *Elephant Magazine*, 8 October 2024.

**ELEPHANT**

## The Shows You Need to See in New York This October

By Sam Falb



Eden Taff  
Untitled (Woman on Striped Bed), 2024.  
Oil on canvas. 48 x 36 in.  
Photo courtesy of LUMkA.

This month's edition features a variety of emerging talent, mixed media, and galleries that have traversed various models ranging from pop up, to residency, to one-weekend extravaganzas. It was also a treat to learn from these artists and curators. Their visions range from capturing the future of their medium and a long career ahead, to a retrospective that charts historical trends and asserts important themes about our society writ-large. While a flurry of fairs, events, parties, and afters begin to take shape in the fall-winter calendar, these shows coax in a season rife with flavor and excitement for the blustery (but creatively stimulating) months to come.

LUMkA: Cult of Domesticity (October 19-Extended View)

On a panel of curators at Gonzo's a few weeks ago, LUMkA curator Cortney Connolly recounted hosting a show (Basement Workshop Series) that could only be accessed by a single viewer, traipsing blindly down a ladder into a below-ground space with dimly lit, but nonetheless breathtaking works. It's this commitment to unique exhibition opportunities that drives the LUMkA project forward. Returning with the multi-artist Cult of Domesticity show, the exhibition serves as a springboard for exploring gender identity and femininity via unorthodox means. Featuring Ilayda Celik, Ruby Chen, Nerieda Patricia, Eden Taff, and Sophia Nunez, the show is once again site-specific, this time to a bedroom. The works provide a collision of comfort and tension. New domesticity, à la "Trad Wives" and "Soft Girl Living" are explored alongside the notion of "what blossoms in a private space," as the exhibition notes read. Is Chen's chainmail work (Performance piece 001) capturing its female wearer or empowering her? What is the context behind the watery, blue eyes of Eden Taff's subject in Untitled (Woman on Striped Bed) – satisfied repose or apprehension? Conversation is alive and well at this show, and viewers are invited to take part, piece by piece.