Reports of Our Visual Art Scene’s Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

By Sarah Hotchkiss

Summer may be blockbuster time for the movie world, but for visual art, it’s all about fall. Which is why it was way too hard to put together this list of 10 recommendations. Not included are two shows I’m very excited about that didn’t quite make our date cutoffs: *Undoing Time* at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (a group exhibition addressing images of incarceration) and *At Home/On Stage: Asian American Representation in Photography and Film* at the Cantor.

Despite reports to the contrary, the Bay Area art scene is going strong. Here’s a small sampling to whet your appetite for the months ahead.

‘Drum Listens to Heart: Part I’

*Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco*

*Sept. 1–Oct. 15*

An ambitious three-part exhibition curated by Wattis director Anthony Huberman launches with a 10-person group show accompanied by live musical performances, a publication and a pop-up record shop. Each part of *Drum Listens to Heart* is a fragment of the whole show, encouraging repeat visits for each successive reinstallation (Part II on Nov. 9 and Part III on Jan. 17). This framework itself is a nod to the idea of a percussive ensemble—singular rhythms that combine into a cacophonous whole. For Huberman, percussive polyrhythms provide a framework for thinking about both aesthetic and political issues as moments of impact and vibration. This former clash cymbal player buys it.