

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Nargess Banks, "A Year in Review: Art and Design Exhibition Highlights in 2023," *Forbes*, December 25, 2023

## Forbes

### A Year In Review: Art And Design Exhibition Highlights In 2023

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Carrie Mae Weems, *Reflections for Now*, Installation view, Barbican Art Gallery, 2023 JEMIMA YONG/BARBICAN

From Steve McQueen's compelling note on social injustice, Carrie Mae Weems and Isaac Julien's unpacking of race, color and gender, Shirin Neshat's politically charged film and stills, and Tomás Saraceno's note to a planet in deep crisis, there was no shortage of hard-hitting art in 2023. And there was so much beauty too, namely Mark Rothko's utterly gorgeous, unmissable show in Paris.

In the summer, Barbican's brutalist building in London hosted one of the most influential and radical American artists working today, Carrie Mae Weems, with *Reflections for Now* uncovering a diverse practice spanning decades.

Weems questions narratives around race, gender, history, class and their representation systems. Hers is a fascinating, layered and, at times, brave and complex exploration of cultural identity, power structures, desire and social justice.

Particularly punchy is her early cinematic Kitchen Table Series (1990). Through these staged and narrated photographs, Weems questions power dynamics, how they can be articulated in the domestic sphere and the potential of the home as a space for resistance. Meanwhile, in her acclaimed series Roaming (2006) and Museums (2016), she confronts architecture as the materialization of political and cultural power.