

Magazine &gt; Exhibitions

## Opening Month



### Opening Month: Exhibitions That Kickstarted 2023

From London to Tokyo to New York, art shows that reinvent some of the most beloved artists of the past decade are shifting the focus back on established creators

Maya Garabedian / MutualArt

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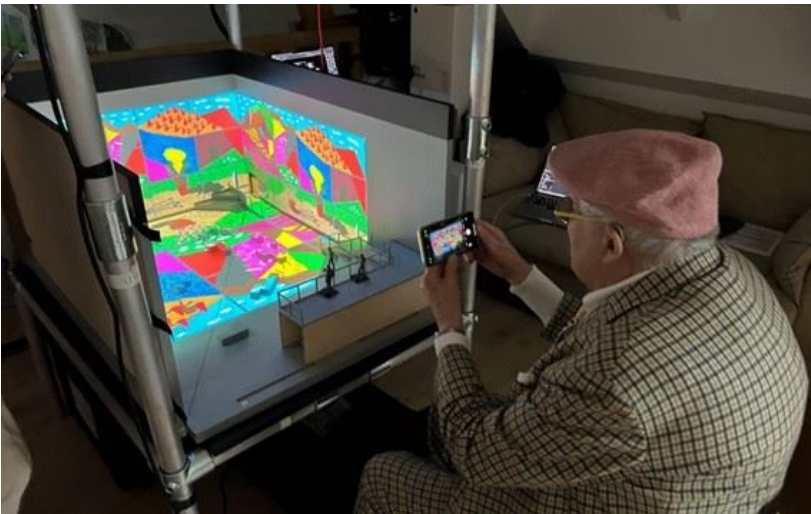
Across the globe, many exciting exhibitions opened last month with the start of the new year. From legendary, well-established artists to up-and-coming ones, there will be no shortage of exhibitions this year. However, exhibitions highlighting famed artists, specifically immersive retrospectives, are the most noteworthy of the bunch. Between the larger-than-life multisensory experience from David Hockney in London, the return of a Vienna icon, Egon Schiele, to Tokyo, and the history-making installations from Félix González-Torres in New York City, 2023 is starting off by asking art lovers to see their favorites in a new way.

**David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away) – Lightroom, London**



Photograph of David Hockney's *The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire in 2011*, oil on 32 canvases, courtesy of Lightroom.

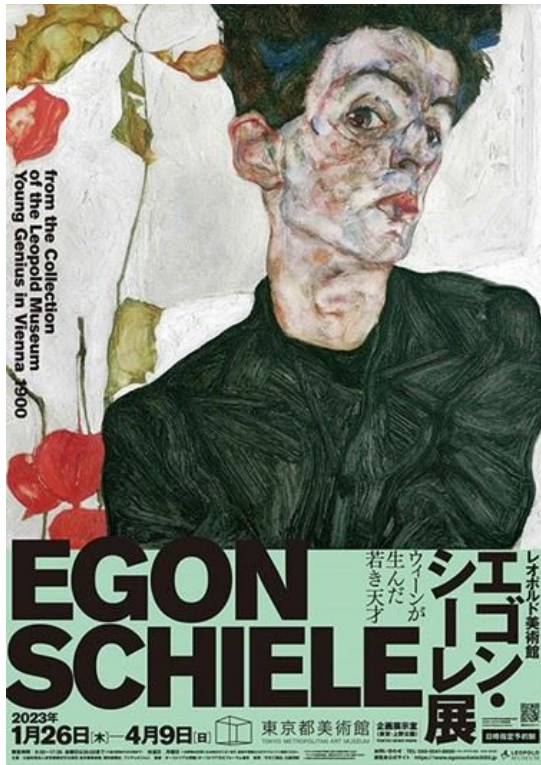
David Hockney, often considered to be one of, if not the most influential and widely recognized British artist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has a highly anticipated show currently on view. Opening with the new year and lasting through April – even rumored to go on until June – “David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away)” is the launch show at the Lightroom and a must-see for anyone in London. Tickets can be booked by the public now for dates starting February 22 onward. Those who have been able to catch an early glimpse have been blown away by the artist’s use of the Lightroom’s four-story space. Hockney, at 85 years of age, has the technological enthusiasm of a much younger artist. Known to experiment with digital mediums, captivating the masses with iPad drawings over the last decade, he is now reframing older works in a new multisensory experience.



David Hockney working with a projected scale model of *Landscape with Shadows*, courtesy of Lightroom.

Three years in the making, “David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away)” is an immersive art show that transforms both iconic and rarely seen pieces into an all-encompassing installation art experience. The show uses virtual and augmented reality to dive into Hockney’s works over the last sixty years of his career. While it has drawn conceptual comparisons to other immersive art experiences, like that of Vincent van Gogh and Gustav Klimt, the Hockney show is different in one major way: he’s alive. Unlike the other immersive shows of similar scale, Hockney was able to be a part of the development of the show, and not just in a curatorial, behind-the-scenes sort of way. Newly made voice-over clips from the artist let visitors be led by Hockney through his world, explaining his thoughts behind the works on view, his artistic process in making them, and his perspective on the intersections of art and life more generally. Hockney’s narration is part of a dedicated score by American composer Nico Muhly, offering a fascinating guide to the six chapter, 50-minute show, making this immersive experience unlike any other.

## Egon Schiele from the Collection of the Leopold Museum – Young Genius in Vienna 1900 – Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum



Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum poster for "Egon Schiele from the Collection of the Leopold Museum – Young Genius in Vienna 1900," courtesy of Tokyo Art Beat.

Further east, an exhibition dedicated to Egon Schiele opened late January at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. On view until April, "Egon Schiele from the Collection of the Leopold Museum – Young Genius in Vienna 1900," is the first major retrospective of the artist's work in Japan in at least three decades. Schiele, an outstanding Austrian painter of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century, passed away at the age of 28, making his impact on the art world smaller than his talent would imply. However, the artist still managed to create a large number of works during his active years, developing the somber, distorted, and even somewhat erotic style he is known for today. The exhibition features approximately 50 of his works, from oil paintings to drawings and beyond, as well as works by his contemporaries, which includes Oskar Kokoschka, Richard Gerstl, and of course, Gustav Klimt, inviting viewers to compare Schiele's work to others of his time. Seeing his work in this context gives insight into his personality – for instance, self-portraits were not as significant to the genre and era as Schiele's work would suggest, and while stylistically similar to Klimt, the real-time comparison gives an air of narcissism that could otherwise go unnoticed.



Egon Schiele, *Self-Portrait with Lowered Head*, 1912, oil on canvas. Courtesy of the Leopold Museum.

### Félix González-Torres – David Zwirner Gallery, New York

Continuing the journey even further east, there are several exhibitions in the States that kicked off in January, many of which take place in New York City. Opening mid-January and lasting until late-February at the world-renowned David Zwirner Gallery, a fascinating Félix González-Torres exhibition will make history. Before passing away from AIDS in 1996, González-Torres had a profound impact on the art world thanks to his originality of thought – best known for installations where piles of candy sit on the floor, sometimes letting visitors take and eat his work. While *Untitled (Public Opinion)*, a candy-based installation, is featured at the gallery, there are currently four major installations on view, two of which weren't fully realized by the artist before his untimely death.



Félix González-Torres, *Untitled (Public Opinion)*, 1991, black licorice candies in clear wrappers. Courtesy of David Zwirner and The New York Times.

Neither *Untitled* or *Untitled (Sagitario)*, both made between 1994 and 1995, were ever entirely conceptualized or able to make their debut at the solo exhibition at CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux in France. However, this wasn't because of his death. The show was set to debut in 1995 but was rescheduled due to institutional reasons, and after postponement, ultimately never occurred. Thankfully, González-Torres gave specific guidelines for keeping his pieces active – plans for specific works, like replenishing the candy pile to create a feeling of endless supply, and “core tenets” for exhibiting his work posthumously, in order to control and preserve his vision. These two works, which have never been seen before, present a sense of newness despite their origin dating back nearly three decades.



Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1994-95, two free-standing billboards. Courtesy of David Zwirner and The New York Times.

In *Untitled*, two billboard-sized photographs of clouds and birds are displayed alongside explosive bursts of sound, which despite its unsettling nature, is actually applause from a Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman concert at Carnegie Hall in 1990. Sound is not a feature of González-Torres's best-known works, making this piece a beautiful and exciting deviation from his signature style. *Untitled (Sagitario)*, featuring a pair of reflecting pools with touching rims, is a counterpart to the beloved installation, *Untitled (Perfect Lovers)*, where two battery-run wall clocks are set for the same time and gradually fall out of sync, adding new meaning to one of his most recognizable pieces.






Félix González-Torres, *Untitled (Sagitario)*, 1994-95, two pools of water. Courtesy of David Zwirner and Daily Art Fair.

The opening month of 2023 was kicked off by the opening of several important exhibitions that set hopes high for the months to come. If these three exhibitions are any indication of what is to come across galleries and museums globally, it is that on the coattails of a 2022, a year infatuated with the newness of ultra-contemporary art, 2023 will see the reframing of older artists to let their work experience newness too.

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## Related Artists

 <p><b>Felix González-Torres</b></p> <p>Cuban, 1957 - 1996</p> <p><b>FOLLOW</b></p>	 <p><b>David Hockney</b></p> <p>British, 1937</p> <p><b>FOLLOW</b></p>	 <p><b>Egon Schiele</b></p> <p>Austrian, 1890 - 1918</p> <p><b>FOLLOW</b></p>
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