

ART SPIEL

Reflections on the work of contemporary artists

MAY 2, 2024 BY MELISSA STERN

The Golden Thread – BravinLee Offsite at The Seaport

PHOTO STORY



Christopher Myers Ghezo's *Throne*, 2021 Appliqué textile, 72 x 48 inches

BravinLee Projects has just launched an audacious, big, and bold exhibition of 60 contemporary artists working in textile or textile-related mediums. It's a massive show in an unlikely pop-up space. A five-story historic brick warehouse building in the Seaport that is anything but the cool, clean white box gallery that we are used to. The walk-up gallery space has vintage wide planked flooring, old fireplaces, and deeply aged brick walls. Though it must have been a challenge to curate in the space and even more of a challenge to install, the result is a fascinating presentation of artists working in a wide range of materials and styles.

There are quite a few installation pieces where the artists have responded directly to the site, and their work looks remarkably at home in the 18th-century rooms. The installations suffuse the rooms with feral energy, which is a nice counterpoint to the many other works in the show that are wall-hanging and thus a little more "civilized."



Sara Jimenez, *At what point does the world unfold?* (column 1), 2022, Textiles, beads, paint, sequins, ceramics, 6 x 37 feet

Understandably there are quite a few pieces that riff on embroidery in innovative ways. I don't know when the phrase "subversive stitching was coined," but it very neatly describes the embroidered works in this exhibition. The stitchers are stichin' like mad in this show, producing excellent and deliciously subversive works. Orly Cogan, an artist who has long used the medium to creative psychodramas, love, and sexuality, excels here with her large-scale tapestry.



Orly Cogan, *Life Force*, 2019, Hand stitched embroidery, appliqué, crochet, lace and paint on vintage bed linen, 80 x 90 inches