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The A24 studio has big plans for the Cherry Lane.

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Once upon a time in the pandemic.

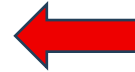
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Focusing on culture at an upstate getaway.

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Weekend Arts

The New York Times

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No Easy Coda For Herself Or Her Fans

By GIA KOURLAS

Gillian Murphy, one of American Ballet Theater's most enduring stars, was living in rural Pennsylvania with her husband, Ethan Stiefel, and their infant son, getting curbside delivery from a market 20 miles away. Murphy and Stiefel had joked that their two-bedroom cabin in the woods was their apocalypse house, and, in a way, it was. When the Covid pandemic hit, they moved there.

"Full isolation," Murphy said in a recent interview at Lincoln Center. "But in terms of the timing of it, for me as a mom it was kind of amazing. That being said, I also thought my career was over."

Early in the pandemic, Murphy told Kevin McKenzie, then Ballet Theater's artistic director, that if and when the company made it back onstage it would be time for her to wrap things up. He told her that she had years left in her.

"That conversation was really incredible, because I would have come back and maybe done 'The Dream' and retired years ago," Murphy said, referring to the Frederick Ashton ballet.

But "when I got back in the studio," she continued, "I ended up feeling so much

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An installation view from "Stan Douglas: Ghostlight," at the Hessel Museum of Art. Through the door is a photograph from the series "Midcentury Studio" (2010), for which Douglas assumed the persona of a postwar photojournalist. Right, "Hors-Champs" (1992).

JASON FARAGO | ART REVIEW

Grab Hold of the Past And Tie It to the Present

Stan Douglas finally gets the retrospective he deserves.

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N.Y.—I knew Vancouver before I ever saw it. I knew it from late-night movies and second-string TV shows, from '80s and '90s American productions — "21 Jump Street," "The X-Files" and the like — that were filmed in the discounted climes north of the border. "Hollywood North," as they used to call it, almost never got to play itself onscreen: The streets around Vancouver's False Creek were recast as San Francisco or New York, and the victims of American horror movies fled through British Columbian forests. The cinema was born in Lyon, France, it was in-

Stan Douglas: Ghostlight
Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College

industrialized in Los Angeles, but Vancouver is the city made of moving pictures. Vancouver's role as Hollywood's secret twin has always seemed suitable to Stan Douglas, the Canadian artist gripped by images and their doubles. Since the 1980s, working in still photography, broadcast television, room-filling video installation and even theater, he has reimagined the

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Fine Art

A Cultural Festival Is a Great (and Green) Escape

Upstate Art Weekend is brimming with paintings, live performances and more.

By WILL HEINRICH

Summer in the city is group-show season, but some of this summer's best are beyond the five boroughs, in Upstate Art Weekend, a five-day festival of more than 150 participants that sprawls across 10 New York counties in the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson Valley. The festival, which runs through Monday, brims with museum shows, live performances and opportunities to visit artists at work in their studios. Although some of the shows are ongoing, for many this weekend is your only chance to visit.

I've gone through the entire list and visited several shows in advance in Putnam, Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Here, under the heading "Highlights," are nine of my favorites, destinations that I'd recommend organizing a day around. But consider visiting an open art studio, too, one of more than 200 listed by the **Foreland art center** in Catskill, the **Millbrook Arts Group** and **Upstate Open Studios**.

You can also be part of a conversation and studio viewing with the collector **Jack Shear** (the widower of the great American painter and sculptor Ellsworth Kelly) in Spencer town, in Columbia County. And at the **Spencertown Academy Arts Center**, a show of second- and third-generation **Gee's Bend** quilters is worth a visit.

Glasshouse, in New Paltz, has a dedicated performance art series. At **Storm King Art Center**, the 500-acre outdoor museum in New Windsor, the artist **Kevin Beasley** will be staging music and dancing in front of his 100-foot-long work "Procession." And just like last year, there will be a dance party fund-raiser for **Noise for Now**, a health care and reproductive rights nonprofit, at **Assembly** in Kingston.

One of the loveliest sites for a visit is the **KinoSato** foundation in Verplanck, a converted former school building set up by the Japanese American Color Field painter **Kiyou Sato** before his death. There, in addition to a show of Sato's own paintings, you'll find an alluring collection of cross-cultural abstractions in the group show "**The Unknown and Its Poetics**." Other venues with interesting shows include the **River Valley Arts Collective**; "**Upstate Gnarly**," an annual group show in an artist's studio, with work by **Judith Linhares**, **Carolee Schneemann** and **Nicola Tyson**; **Athens Cultural Center**, with **Polly Apfelbaum** and other abstract artists; and "**So It Goes?**" a colorful group show in the grand old wooden grain elevator of the **Wassaic Project**, an artists' residency center in Wassaic.

When you find a show that catches your eye, go to upstateartweekend.org to see what else is nearby and build yourself a day or two in the country.

Highlights

Named for the 2,000-pound painting that Jay DeFeo built in her Filmore Street apartment in the 1960s, "**The Rose**," a large group show at **CPW** in Kingston, is a thought-provoking deep dive into the feminist history and potential of collage curated by **Justine Kurland** and **Marina Chao**. Art that focuses on the body and sexuality, like **Olivia Reavey's** unflinching "Bleed I" and "Bleed II," or on race, family and identity, like **Keisha Scaville's** terrific "Passports" series, is in dialogue with less explicitly pointed works and even a 1960s **Lee Bontecou** sculpture. I left convinced of collage's special connection to the female experience. Also in **CPW's** beautiful new building is a killer show of photographs by **Larry Fink**. Next door to Kingston in Port Ewen is a show of sculptures at the **Post Office**.

The homoerotic subtext of **Harold Stevenson's** often-enormous paintings of men's eyes, mouths and nipples got him booted from important shows in the 1960s even as it won fans like **Andy Warhol**. But if Stevenson's subject matter is no longer as risky as it was, his close-focus romance still feels radical. "**Harold Stevenson: Less Real Than My Routine Fantasy**" at **Art Omi**, his first institutional solo show, includes a 10-foot painting of a matador lover and a charming mixed-media portrait of two erect phalluses.

→ **"All Manner of Experiments: Legacies of the Baghdad Modern Art Group" at the**



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From top: **Jimenez Lai's** "Outcasts From the Underground," at **Art Omi**; left, a collage by **Jori Minaya**, part of a group show at **CPW**; and right, "**Gee's Bend: The Next Generation**," at **Spencertown Academy Arts Center**; the artist **Jesse Bransford's** octagonal house in **Catskill, N.Y.**; a collaboration by the sculptor **Nancy Shaver** and the artists' group she calls **Wolf**; works in "**The Unknown and Its Poetics**" at **KinoSato**.

Upstate Art Weekend

Through Monday across 10 counties in the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson Valley. Details are at upstateartweekend.org, with a customizable Google map on the website, but double-check hours and locations before you go.

Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College, in Annandale-on-Hudson, is an excavation of a formative artists' group founded by **Jewad Selim** and **Shakir Hassan Al Said** in 1951, when Iraq, not quite two decades removed from British rule, was in an exciting moment of cultural reinvention. As interesting as it is, though, to watch the currents of Western Modernism intersect with ancient Mesopotamian motifs like pre-Islamic crescent moons, the best part of the show for me was simply the introduction to Selim's elegant, musical, understated paintings. (A double reward: The museum is also hosting **Stan Douglas's** "Ghostlight," the filmmaker's innovative survey, which is reviewed on Page 8.)

America's "**General Conditions**," to take the title of the current exhibition at **Jack Shainman Gallery's The School** in Kinderhook at face value, are bleak. The typically polished curatorial begins with a colorful array of found bullet-riddled targets by **Jaclyn Wright** ("Desert Simulation") and continues through **Deborah Luster's** silver gelatin prints of Louisiana prisoners and **Yoon Capote's** uncanny fishbowl paintings to a version of the **Jesse Krimes** prison-bed-sheet panorama recently on display at the Met. In this context, **Pierre Dorion's** minimal renditions of empty rooms look like glimpses of some near-future dystopia, and even beautiful paintings by **Kenny Rivera** and **Donyel Iry-Royal** take on a subtly ominous tone. But there are oases of hope, too, if also of a slightly postapocalyptic variety. **Shannon Boal's** gorgeous suite of photographs turn majestic horses into futurist architecture, and **Alina Tenser's** vinyl and concrete sculptures seen like the artifacts of some very chic space aliens.

Barreling into its second year, **The Campus**, a former school complex in Claverack owned by five galleries, presents an expansive group show which, displayed mostly in

a series of unrenovated classrooms, feels more like a consortium of solos, many of them worth a trip in themselves. **Kiki Smith's** room, in which a pair of eight-foot bronze shining stars preside over a dozen-odd dreamy color photographs, is a highlight, as are a garden of **Ming Fay** sculptures in a locker room; a pairing of sinuous ceramic sculptures by **Ryan Johnson** with high-intensity paintings by **Dana Schutz**; more colorful paintings by **Katharina Grosse** and **Natasha Hiru** and the toy-block overtones of **Richard Tuttle's** wall-mounted two-by-four sculptures. On Saturday, **Nicole Cherubini**, who also has a solo show up at **September Gallery** in Kinderhook, and **Julia K. Gleich** will stage a short performance at **The Campus** inspired by **Virginia Woolf's** "A Room of One's Own" at 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30.

In the mid-19th century, helped along by a how-to manual by a prominent phrenologist, a fashion for octagonal houses swept the United States. Intended to be egalitarian and efficient in their design, they were also reputed to be spiritual portals that attracted wandering visitors on their way to the afterlife. The artist **Jesse Bransford**, whose work often draws from the occult, has one of these in the town of **Catskill**, and this weekend he is giving it over to the curator **Marie Catalano** for a **Kunstskammer**-inspired group show called "**Peculiar Manufactures**." Walking by ceramic birds by **Elizabeth Jaeger**, and ceramic spiders by **Heidi Lau**, dressed-up mannequins by **Anna-Sophie Berger** and **Nicole Darling's** flowers in vases, you may just catch a presence from the corner of your eye.

By Train: An Excursion to Beacon

If you're coming from New York City via Metro-North, head to **Beacon** for a one-stop minifestival. Start up on Main Street at the **Howland Cultural Center**, currently hosting "**Work in Decay**," a show of beautiful black-and-white photos, by **The New York Times** photographer **Tony Centola** and others, of **Beacon's** own historical ups and downs.

The inaugural exhibition of pioneering video art at **Shigeko Kubota Video Art Foundation Beacon** is an easy walk away, as are shows at **Distortion Society**, **BAU Gallery** and **KaBe Art Center**. En route back to the train, stop at the always imposing **Dia Beacon**, with a large display of **Renée Green's** visually and conceptually stimulating 1990s "Color" flags. If your visit is on Saturday afternoon, stop at **Soon Is Now** gallery for a 5 p.m. opening and 6:30 p.m. performance by the ecologically focused artists **Jennifer Lauren Smith** and **Andrew Brehm**.

And if you're game for a quick cab ride, consider popping across to the west side of the Hudson to **Newburgh**, where attractions include a photography show at **ADS Warehouse** and the intricately patterned sculpture of the Puerto Rican-born artist **Edra Soto**, who has a solo show at **Strongroom**.

