

## Photography Highlights from The Armory Show 2019

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This year's Armory Show began with a bit of pre-fair scheduling drama. Last minute structural problems with Pier 92 forced the organizers to move the booths planned for that pier to nearby Pier 90. But this opportunistic reshuffle didn't come without meaningful consequences, however. The move caused the domino effect of bumping all of the galleries who had signed up for the sister Volta fair out into the cold; these galleries were then partially rescued by the hustle and generosity of collector Peter Hort, David Zwirner Gallery, and others, who rustled up an alternate fair solution that became known as Plan B. For those who weren't following all of this back and forth prior to the opening of the show, the net effect to the average Armory Show visitor was simply a longer (and chillier) walk between the two piers, and an additional ride to Chelsea to catch the plucky reincarnated (but hobbled) Volta.

As expected, the photography to be found at this year's Armory Show leans toward the very most contemporary work, much of it made in the last few years, with a few vintage rarities and lesser known rediscoveries mixed in here and there. And while there was essentially the same amount of photography on view this year as in year's past, I deliberately limited myself to selecting a total of 25 photography highlights this year. This tighter editing process resulted in leaving out some of the usual suspects and obvious sellers that consistently repopulate the aisles, leaving a bit more space to think about the range of recently produced and somewhat more obscure (but deserving) works.

The slideshow below covers what caught my eye in the various booths on both Pier 94 and Pier 90, and as usual, the individual images are accompanied by linked gallery names, artist/photographer names, and prices where appropriate, along with further description and analysis.

**David Castillo Gallery:** This mixed-media piece by Lyle Ashton Harris was one of the strongest at the fair. Harris' signature inspiration wall collages form the central axis of the work, the red tinted dye sublimation plates seeming to glow and shine in the darkness. Patterned funeral cloth from Ghana (featuring a hummingbird motif) and a few strands of the artist's own dreadlocked hair rebalance the engrossing mood of mortality. Priced at \$75000.

