

Miami Herald

Louise Nevelson and a testament to genius cut short: An art-lover's moveable feast

BY ANNE TSCHIDA MARCH 06, 2020 07:00 AM

MARCH ART SHOWS BEAR WITNESS TO COMMON EXPERIENCES, TRAGEDY AND THE LIGHT THAT CAN SOMETIMES FOLLOW.



DREAM WEAVER

Shinique Smith: “Dream Weaver,” at David Castillo Gallery, 420 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach; davidcastillogallery.com. Through March 28.

Smith has become a Castillo favorite. “Dream Weaver” marks her fourth solo show there, this time featuring textile paintings. Really, they are collages with painterly swirling additions, graffiti-like “diaries” of life and objects. Smith uses old jewelry, mirrors and clothing to accompany the painting, creating little tableaux of everyday optics. For

instance the center piece, “Memories of my youth streak by on the 23” is described by the gallery notes as a snapshot of moving down a street as seen from the number 23 bus, which Smith rode as a high-schooler in her hometown of Baltimore. The work comprises seven panels with blurred images — of storefronts, facades and row houses? — as if they were passing by, while embedded mirrors reflect the visitor, pulling them into this snippet of time and place as well. These delightful works express “individual yet universalized experiences.” That’s par for the course for the Los Angeles-based artist, whose work can be found in major museums across the country including the Rubell Museum here.

CARIBBEAN ISLES

“Dust Specks on the Sea: Sculpture from the French Caribbean and Haiti” at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex; 212-260 NE 59th Terr., Miami; littlehaiticulturalcenter.com. Through April 25. [

The exhibition title is derived from a quote attributed to French president Charles de Gaulle as he described the country’s former colonies while flying over the Caribbean. The comment is multi-layered – dust specks can be tiny, and therefor peripheral to a bigger empire. Or perhaps they are spectacles, mysterious lands? The phrase may also reference the giant, destructive volcanic explosion on Martinique of the early 20th century and its huge dust plume, which was famously photographed. Organized by the Hunter East Harlem Gallery, this show wants to “de-mystify” that particular, quaint view of the French Caribbean and give voice to its current societies through sculptures from more than 25 artists, including locals such as Edouard Duval-Carrié and Adler Guerrier. Each addresses a complex and beautiful region in its own way, sometimes interacting with one another. It’s just the right fit for the Little Haiti venue, with a slight and different twist.