

# The New York Times

## What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

OCT. 27, 2016

### Sissel Blystad

#### 'Glenne'

*Hester*

*55-59 Chrystie Street, Suite 203*

*Lower East Side*

*Through Nov. 13*

Sissel Blystad is hardly unknown in her native Norway. She established herself in the 1970s as a weaver of large minimalist textiles, and one of her tapestries from 2005 hangs in the Norwegian National Parliament's press room in Oslo. This is her first New York gallery show, however, and a departure for Ms. Blystad.



An installation view of "Glenne," Sissel Blystad's show at Hester.  
2016 Sissel Blystad/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York and Hester, New York

The works in "Glenne" at Hester (the title means "Glade" in English) are not woven. Rather, they are made with pieces of hand-dyed wool laid down on a shaped support. Unfortunate circumstances led Ms. Blystad to this method — a 2010 car accident left her with two broken arms, which prevented her from using her loom. Vibrant and complex, the geometric compositions draw on her long career as a weaver and on her drawings, but they also resemble paintings by early-20th-century artists like Sonia Delaunay.

Larger works here were created with the same technique, but with individual pieces of dyed wool laid over textiles with pre-existing patterns. One of these, "Glenne" (2012), hangs from the ceiling in the center of the room. You can see the muted pattern on back of the found textile, and how Ms. Blystad created a counterpoint to this with her own composition on the other side.

The counterpoint idea can be drawn out further. It is unusual to discover an artist like Ms. Blystad — clearly a master — tucked away in a second-floor gallery in Chinatown, where you expect to see young upstart artists. And yet, weaving and textiles are still treated as marginal or emerging practices in this country. This creates an interesting frisson within an exhibition that is both masterly and radical, traditional in feel yet subversive.

MARTHA SCHWENDENER

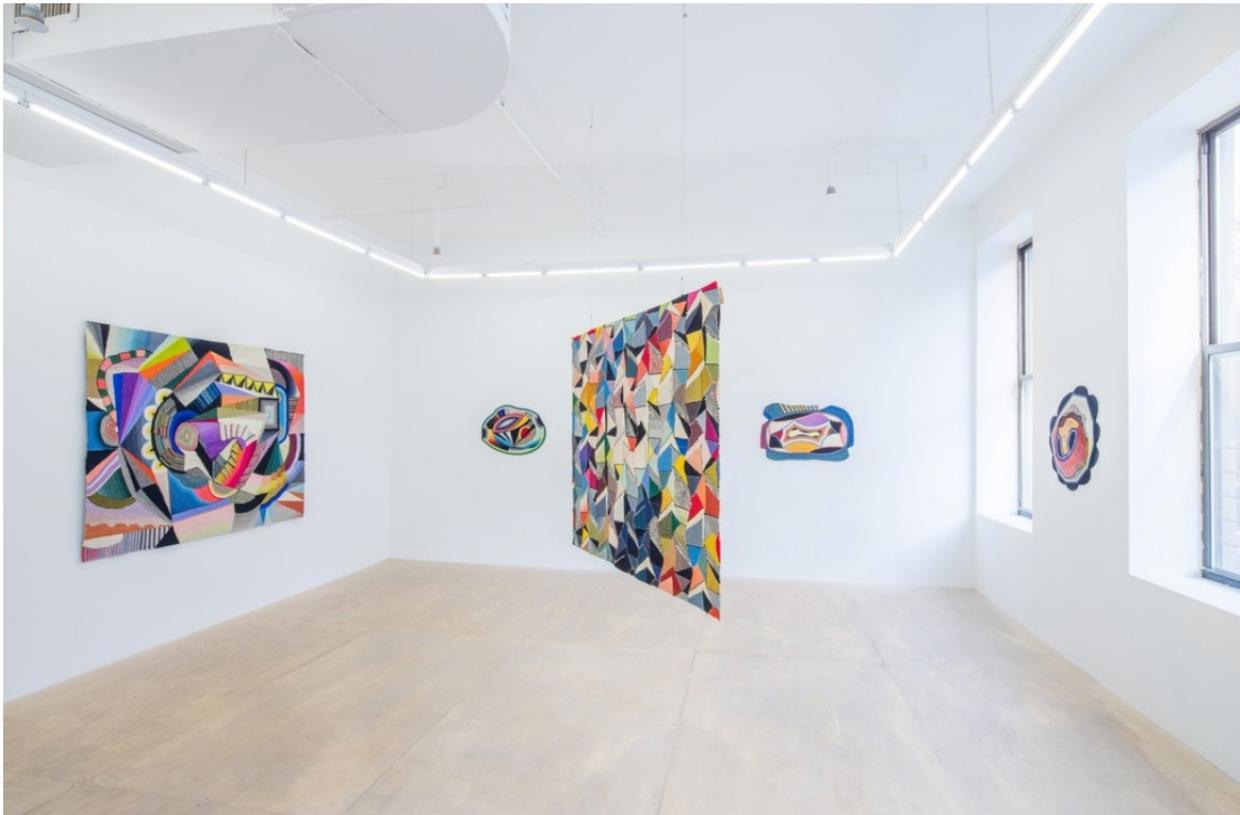
# 15 New York Gallery Shows You Need to See This November

ARTSY EDITORIAL  
BY CASEY LESSER  
NOV 1ST, 2016 1:10 AM

At New York galleries this November we find a strong, eclectic mix of shows—from solos of young artists, to historic two-person surveys, to blockbusters of leading contemporary artists that are too big for a single gallery space. Below, find 15 gallery shows that should not be missed.

## Sissel Blystad at Hester

OCT. 14–NOV. 13 • 55-59 CHRYSTIE STREET, SUITE 203



Installation view of work by Sissel Blystad at Hester. Photo courtesy of Hester.

The acclaimed Oslo-born artist Blystad has been a leading figure in Scandinavian textiles arts for more than four decades, but only now does she receive her first solo show in the U.S. The exhibition includes small, mesmerizing textiles filled with color gradients and intricate patterns. The centerpiece is a large tapestry that hangs across the gallery, allowing viewers to get a close-up of her painstaking process.