

# MNUCHIN GALLERY

ART SY

## 9 Must-See Gallery Shows in New York This March

By Casey Lesser  
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Mnuchin's survey of Mary Lovelace O'Neal is a welcome spotlight on the underrepresented 78-year-old artist. Made between the 1960s and the 2000s, the bold paintings on view include unstretched canvases saturated with pigment and dashed with narrow wisps of color; giant pulsating expressionistic paintings with feverish brushstrokes and rashes of drips; and spiritual color fields doused in rich, translucent hues.



Mary Lovelace O'Neal, *Pink Self Portrait*, early-mid 1990s. Photo by Tom Powell Imaging. Courtesy of Mnuchin Gallery, New York.

Now a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley and based in Oakland, O'Neal was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1942. She earned her BFA at Howard University in 1964 and her MFA at Columbia in 1969; at the latter, she was the only African American woman in her class. O'Neal's works nod to the predecessors she studied—such as Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, and later, the Color Field painters—but still feel uniquely her own. The artist recently told the *New York Times*, “I think my art has been given a wide berth until now...when you achieve stardom early on, you feel you cannot change your style. It was not that way with me.” At Mnuchin, we're treated to a taste of that multiplicity, and a strong sense that such daring, distinctive work should be more familiar.