



Portland MONTHLY

6 Art Gallery and Museum Shows to See in Portland This Winter

The season breaks from the regular art-going schedule, with a play-themed museum show, otherworldly paintings, and a chess party.

By [Matthew Trueherz](#) • November 21, 2024

THE FINE ART WORLD certainly doesn't escape the general pause the holidays bring. But this time of year also casts a fun, amorphous mood over its otherwise very regimented regular schedule. The time from Thanksgiving into the new year often breaks the month-after-month run of openings and closings timed precisely to the first Thursday of each month. Winter is the season of the group show, too, and of the guest curator, and the extended exhibition that gives everyone a chance to catch up between company parties and long weekends at the in-laws. As it does elsewhere, the focus tends to loosen at galleries and museums in the winter months, but often that's a good thing. These are the shows we're looking out for before spring.

Sara Rahmanian

NOV 23-FEB 8 | ILY2, FREE

Rahmanian's debut solo show with ILY2, *Maybe Tomorrow*, follows a distinctly surreal series of paintings she showed with the gallery at the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) fair in New York this spring. Born in Tehran, Rahmanian moved to New Haven, Connecticut, in 2019 for Yale's MFA program and now lives and works there. Her paintings often blur lines between sentient beings and static objects, giving an envelope or a bell fleshy skin and stretching figures' proportions past human parameters. She credits her inspiration to playful Farsi proverbs and Iranian literature, but also to the experience of holding her culture and language while experiencing America's. Pictures flanked by eyelids and lashes, as if viewed from inside the artist's mind, are becoming a signature.