

ART SPIEL

Contemporary Art and Culture

AUGUST 5, 2024 BY YASMEEN ABDALLAH

Art Spiel Picks: LES in August 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Della Wells: Mambo Land, at Andrew Edlin Gallery
@andrewedlingallery

On view through: August 16, 2024

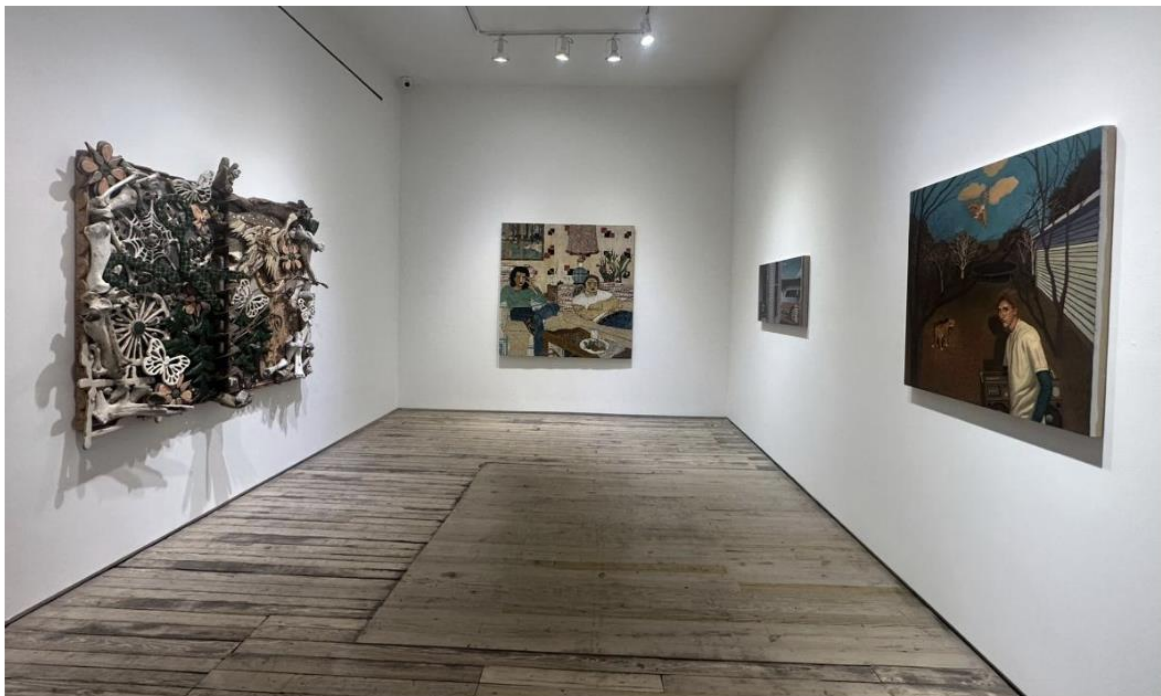


Della Wells: Mambo Land, at Andrew Edlin

The phrase “if these walls could talk” is certainly applicable at Andrew Edlin, as both shows currently on view follow personal histories through narrative-based

works. This contemplative storytelling fills the gallery with various moments of personal histories exploring ideas of America. In Della Wells' show, *Mambo Land*, collage is the medium of choice: a decidedly accessible practice that reflects on empowerment and a utopian vision where Black women preside over Mambo Land in exhilarating ways. The female gaze stares back, reflecting on this world that Wells constructs, an examination of the American south reality and the world that is within grasp. Through delicate, heartfelt pastiches of information and materials such as paper, found objects, and thoughtful trinkets, the personal touch moves off the wall and into the psyche of the viewer.

These images are an encounter with the divine: we are transported to this world, observers privy to the magic that Wells shares with us as she moves between the two realms. Her uncanny knack for pairing various elements together creates endlessly charming moments within each collage that lends for leisurely lingering and drawing connections as you move back and forth across the length of the gallery. The power of these works is revealed in layers, with each moment that you appreciate what sits before you, all the more is revealed.



Tyler Macko, Bill Miller, and John Roberts, Andrew Edlin Gallery

Tyler Macko, Bill Miller and John Roberts also deliberate on ideas and experiences of the Americana variety in this three-person exhibition. Like Wells, a relationship to folk art is palpable in this vibrant show. These works speak to each other as friends up late in a shared studio space might converse with another. The intimacy and closeness in proximity and subject matter makes for an engaging experience. Figures are rooted amidst intimate interiors, and lonely exteriors greet viewers, ever so rich in color, dimension and intensity. An exciting sculptural-painting assemblage is firmly anchored on one wall, its earthly belongings of birds, butterflies and bones awaiting a human presence to visually excavate its many layers. Indeed, this stunning show is an opportunity of reflection in endless regards, and a show that will stay with you long after.