

# The New York Times

**FALL PREVIEW** New Shows That Widen the Beaten Path  
Fall exhibitions capture a period during which art and art history have been in flux, to our great benefit, including **a deep dive into four centuries of lace** and the New Museum's survey of the polymathic Theaster Gates.

Roberta Smith

There is no time like the present — ever. In terms of art, this moment has been distinguished by startling fluidity, rapid change and thrilling expansion both in terms of what constitutes art and who makes it. (Or who has made it, since art's past is expanding too.) The fall exhibitions that intrigue me most continue this expansion. The latest cracks in the barriers between art and craft include a show of 19th-century African American stoneware jars at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a survey of some of the most outrageous costumes of this century at the Museum of Arts and Design. Overdue retrospectives will occur at the American Folk Art Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. And three museums have given midcareer artists the run of their galleries.

**[Threads of Power: Lace from the Textilmuseum St. Gallen,](#)** at the Bard Graduate Center, will give New York its first in-depth look in nearly 40 years at the history of this intricate, fragile and costly textile (Sept. 16-Jan. 1). Organized in collaboration with the Textilmuseum in St. Gallen, Switzerland, the show presents scores of examples from the 16th to 21st centuries, including bobbinlace and needle-lace borders, bonnets, mantelets and samplers. Lace's modern allure is reflected in dresses by designers like Dior, Givenchy, Saint Laurent and Prada, and in the lemony felted lace and silk radzimir ensemble that [Isabel Toledo designed](#) in 2009 for Inauguration Day in January 2009 when Michelle Obama officially became first lady.



François Hubert Drouais, "Marie Rinteau, called Mademoiselle de Verrières, France," 1761, from "Threads of Power: Lace from the Textilmuseum St. Gallen," at the Bard Graduate Center. Credit. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York