

4 Art Exhibits You Need to See

Posted by [Paul D'Agostino](#) on Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:42 PM



A couple works by Bienvenu at Life On Mars.

Recommendations for spending your weekend with artworks indoors, in Brooklyn, and outdoors on nearby islands.

TODD BIENVENU: BORROWING TOMORROW'S FUN

Life on Mars Gallery, 56 Bogart St., through September 28th

Bienvenu has shown some champion paintings at Life on Mars since the gallery's inception just over a year ago, but this time he's got the thrust of the recently reconfigured, spatially improved exhibition room all to himself—and his show is all that and a side of grits. The painter's subjects, animate or not, seem often to wade in the tenebrous quag of their own existence. This effect is both pictorial and painterly, as the artist's application is thick but runny, viscously drippy. Full of song and soul, many of Bienvenu's larger works—featuring strippers and rockers, signs and undead lurkers—heave and haw in a bayou of warped humanity and stewy humidity. His smaller works on paper, however, pack in the mood with a different sort of economy, such as one in which a lone rotund rump in Daisy Dukes appears nearly ajiggle with humorous synecdoche. Elsewhere, a patently self-admonishing message reiteratively inscribed on a chalkboard will readily insinuate itself into the liver of your memory. More grits, champ.