

## 5 Shows to See in Upstate New York This February

Tony Cokes's urgent video works, Caitlin MacBride's Shaker-inspired paintings, Barrow Parke's mytho-mathematical survey, and other shows that'll warm your winter.

The glory of seasonal changes in the Hudson Valley in Upstate New York inspires a distinct mood for art-adventuring each month. This February, there is a diversity of exhibitions that will warm art aficionados across the region, including Tony Cokes's poignant video-work commentary on Black culture and American society at Bard College and Caitlin MacBride's graphic paintings in celebration of Shaker materiality at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill. Several group shows flirt with quasi-surrealist expressionism, from paintings and sculptural works by Gretta Johnson and Christine Stiver, respectively, at Headstone Gallery in Kingston, to fun-loving mixed media artworks by 11 artists across seven floors at Wassaic Project. Scattered along both sides of the wintry Hudson River, these gallery and museum shows defy the colder temperatures, highlighting the year-round hearth of the area's thriving arts ecosystem.



Still from Tony Cokes, "The Queen is Dead... Fragment 1" (2019) (image courtesy the artist; Greene Naftali, New York; Felix Gaudlitz, Vienna; Hannah Hoffman, Los Angeles; and Electronic Arts Intermix, New York)

### **Tony Cokes: *Two Works and an Archive***

Curators Hannah Mandel and Tom Eccles present two video works by consummate disruptor Tony Cokes alongside archival materials from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. An artist, director, DJ, writer, and educator, Cokes explores themes related to popular culture and entertainment through text-heavy video art. In early video works such as "Black Celebration (A Rebellion Against Commodity)" (1988), Cokes combines news footage of uprisings in urban Black communities of Los Angeles, Newark, Detroit, and Boston during the 1960s, set against industrial music from the '80s as well as appropriated text. Taken together with a work from 2019, this show is a glimpse into Cokes's steadfast gaze, which has fixed upon the struggle for Black liberation for decades now.

Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College ([ccs.bard.edu](https://ccs.bard.edu))