

# The New York Times

## At Museums, a Mix of Old and New

Masters like Cézanne, Matisse and Georgia O’Keeffe are on display across the country, as well as contemporary artists.



Gio Swaby’s “Gyalavantin” (2021) will be on display in “Gio Swaby: Fresh Up” at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Fla., from May 28 through Oct. 9. Claire Oliver Gallery, New York



By **Ted Loos**

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This article is part of our latest [special section on Museums](#), which focuses on new artists, new audiences and new ways of thinking about exhibitions.

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American museums are making steady efforts to show a large range of media, styles and perspectives. But this spring and summer, the most notable diversity may be temporal: Some of the greats of the past — like Henri Matisse, Paul Cézanne and Georgia O’Keeffe — are being seen at the same time as contemporary makers now establishing their names, like Shahzia Sikander, Gio Swaby and Guo Pei.

### ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

“Gio Swaby: Fresh Up”

*May 28 to Oct 9*

The Bahamian-born artist Gio Swaby sews portraits in fabric and thread that she has called “love letters to Black women.” She starts with a photograph of the subject, and in the series “Pretty Pretty” the resulting works are life-size for extra monumentality. The show’s more than 40 works demonstrate how Ms. Swaby emphasizes the unique personal style of her subjects, with color and pattern taking on a life of their own. **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg**, [mfastpete.org](http://mfastpete.org)

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