

SURFACE

10 Must-See Exhibitions This Week, From Mexico City to London and Beyond

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A forest of hand-painted cushions, Hedda Sterne's spectral paintings, Julian Charrière's meditative footage of icy terrain, and more.



Rafael Domenech: Model to Exhaust This Place

When: Jan. 16–March 23

Where: SculptureCenter, New York

What: In a previous life, SculptureCenter's ground-floor gallery served as a former trolley repair shop. Its industrial gantry system, though no longer in use, remains, and inspired Cuban artist Rafael Domenech to reclaim it as a machine to produce a pavilion-like installation with materials typically destined for construction sites. Large panels made of aluminum-framed construction mesh function as what he terms "space modulators" to create various architectural configurations. Inside these constructions, Domenech presents his extensive research into concrete poetry printed on chairs and laser-cut into panels. In addition to his own writings, two poems by exiled Neo-Baroque Cuban writer Severo Sarduy (1937–93) speak to dislocation, a poignant display in Long Island City, where SculptureCenter is located, which is undergoing dramatic gentrification. —*Ryan Waddoups*