

ART FAIR REVIEW

The Armory Show, in a Back-to-School Edition

Art fairs come early, tailoring their calendars to compete with the city's big fall gallery and museum exhibitions. A critic's 11 favorite booths.

Patel Brown (Booth F12)



Figure 1 "Efflorescence/The Way We Wake," 2023, Rajni Perera and Marigold Santos at Patel Brown. James Estrin/The New York Times

It's hard to miss the giant earth-colored figure crawling out of the Canadian gallery [Patel Brown](#)'s booth. Made of polymer clay, synthetic hair and other materials, the humanoid creature wears a mask — or perhaps its face is a mask. Made by [Marigold Santos](#) and [Rajni Perera](#), the sculpture suggests deities and mythological figures from the artists' cultures (Santos is from the Philippines and Perera from Sri Lanka), as well as life-changing experiences like motherhood. In their hands, art also becomes a place to create hybrids or new "Indigenous" sprites and spirits, drawing from imagined, imperiled or lost ones.