

# FORT GANSEVOORT

Art & Object

## The Top Art Exhibitions of 2023

By Rebecca Schiffman and the Editors – December 22, 2023



Shuvinai Ashoona, Polar bear sketching people 2023 Colored pencil and ink on paper 50.25 x 97.25 inches ©Shuvinai Ashoona. Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort, New York.

Hoping to establish an annual tradition, Art & Object invited its regular contributors to share their favorite 2023 exhibitions with our readers. The list below highlights twelve important art events from the past year, some of which we covered at the time and others we did not. Whatever your taste in art, these shows prove that 2023 had something for everyone.

Shuvinai Ashoona, 'Looking Out, Looking In' at Fort Gansevoort

We had not thought much or learned about Arctic artists until we visited Fort Gansevoort's Shuvinai Ashoona exhibition this fall. Ashoona's massive works, some over eight feet long, vividly depict monochromatic landscapes and lively scenes of contemporary Inuit life. Based in Kinngait, an Inuit hamlet on Baffin Island, Ashoona is part of the West Baffin Cooperative, where over 10 percent of the 2,000-person community are artists, according to First Nations curator Candice Hopkins. The exhibition not only showcases visually striking pieces but also narrates

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universal stories of community, identity, intergenerational trauma, and climate change—themes resonating in contexts beyond the Arctic.

Image: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Polar bear sketching people*, 2023. Colored pencil and ink on paper. 50.25 x 97.25 inches.

—Rebecca Schiffman