VOGUE

Sights of Spring: A Preview of May's Must-See Art in New York City

by Dodie Kazanjian

When the international art world descends on New York City for the auction season this May, nine giant and mythic blue-stone figures by Ugo Rondinone at Rockefeller Center will lead the welcoming squad. Ancient-looking but wholly contemporary, these heavy stacked stones (a Public Art Fund project) carry echoes of Stonehenge and seem inhabited by human spirits. Sculptural figures of a different sort will be visible further downtown on the High Line, in "Busted," an exhibition which features nine sculptures by nine artists—including George Condo, Mark Grotjahn, and Sean Landers, all of whom have fun with the traditions of urban monuments and civic busts. The museums are weighing in too: Matthew Barney's "Subliming Vessel" is the first museum retrospective of Barney's drawings (starting with his earliest work as a student at Yale in the late 80s), at the Morgan Library (May 10); "EXPO 1: New York" at MoMA PS1, addresses the questions raised by climate change—in one instance, bringing Icelandic glacial fragments to town (May 12); and of the most spectacular shows of Edward Hopper's drawings (more than 200 of them) ever done—anywhere—opens May 23 at the Whitney, some of them alongside such famous Hopper paintings as Nighthawks and Morning in a City. **The visual feast continues, with the New Museum and Art Production Fund's "After Hours 2: Murals on the Bowery"—fourteen artists, including Dana Schutz, Laura Owens, and Mel Bochner, will use the steel shutters on shop fronts along the Bowery as their canvases. And Frieze New York is back for a second year,** on Randall's Island (May 10–13). Everybody's talking about Paul McCarthy's 80-foot tall Balloon Dog—a take-off on Jeff Koons' Balloon Dog? I'm especially looking forward to seeing Pae White's contribution. . . and to the food—concessions from Roberta's, Mission Chinese Food, Blue Bottle Coffee, and lots more . . .