

# HYPERALLERGIC

Boas, Natasha, "What to See in San Francisco Art Week," *Hyperallergic*, January 16, 2025

[Art](#)

## What to See in San Francisco Art Week

The celebratory and regenerative bells of Davina Semo and Ashwini Bhat, Kota Ezawa's Alcatraz-inspired "video mural," and more.



Natasha Boas January 16, 2025

SAN FRANCISCO — In her essay "[In the Shadow of Silicon Valley](#)" in the *London Review of Books* last year, San Francisco art historian and cultural critic Rebecca Solnit evaluated the contemporary iteration of our city with pessimism. Claiming that it has lost its spirit to super-elite tech titans, Solnit deploys the image of the driverless car as metaphor for a soulless wasteland of a city led by a Thiel-Zuckerberg-Musk triumvirate.

What does it mean for our city to be bestowed a dystopian reputation from a regarded intellectual of the Left? Surely, to fully accept Solnit's argument that SF is a power center devoid of humanism would be an oversimplification that is dangerously close to the alt-right's destructive "failed liberal city" narrative, and neglects the extraordinary energy, community, capacity, and new art practices found in the Bay. Solnit, it seems, is nostalgic for a countercultural past defined by experimental poetry and the Beats, Gay Rights and AIDS activism, and the 1969–71 occupation of Alcatraz by a coalition of Indigenous people — the city as refuge for weirdos, dreamers, activists, and rule breakers. Fair enough. But many of our artists find positive use for such nostalgia as fodder for the work being made and displayed in the Bay arts ecosystem.

Even as we grieve for our Southern California counterparts and the people of the Los Angeles area, the Northern California art world will gather in the Bay Area from this Saturday, January 18th through next Sunday the 26th for San Francisco Art Week, a loosely organized group of programs, events, and openings orbiting the [FOG Design+Art fair](#). As you'll see, the Bay's unique DNA infuses the projects highlighted here.

# ALTMAN SIEGEL

1150 25TH ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

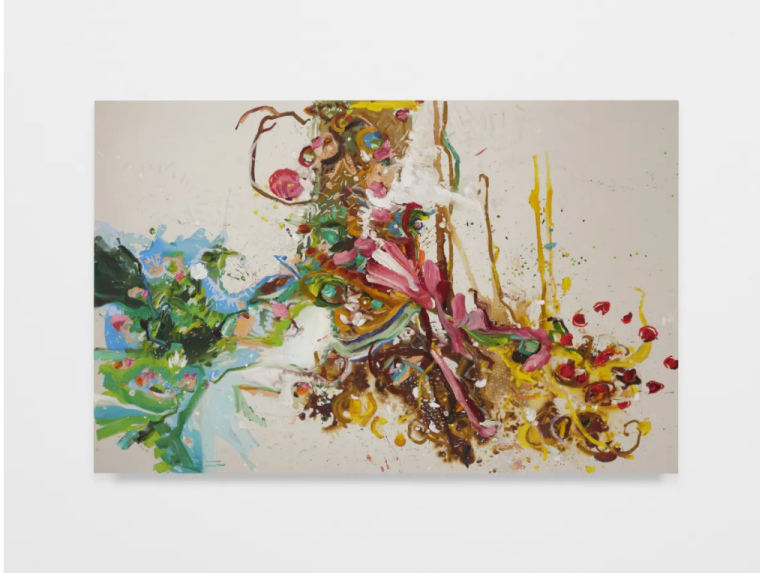
tel: 415.576.9300 / fax: 415.373.4471

www.altmansiegel.com

## Hiba Kalache: Embodiment

Altman Siegel, 3067 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California

Through February 1



Hiba Kalache, "to uncover other skies" (2024), ink, oil, and oil bar on canvas, 102 x 65 inches (259.1 x 165.1 cm) (image courtesy Altman Siegel, San Francisco)