

## Editors' Picks: 8 Art Events to See in New York This Week

Your guide to the week ahead.

**Wednesday, October 19–Saturday, December 3**



Martha Friedman, *Two Person Operating System* (2016)  
Photo by Jason Varone. Courtesy of the artist and Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

### **2. Martha Friedman “Some Hags” at The Great Hall, Institute of Fine Arts at New York University**

“Some Hags” is a new body of work by sculptor Martha Friedman, and the first in a series of exhibitions by and about women, at the landmark James B. Duke House, the cavernous house the family donated in 1952, which now serves as headquarters for NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts. Friedman created an installation as a response to an expansive Flemish tapestry that hangs above the building’s sweeping staircase which depicts a scene from *The Odyssey*, in which the goddess Circe is being threatened and chastised by Odysseus. Of the tapestry, Friedman said: “I’m intrigued by how contemporary this five-hundred-year-old weaving feels in the way it tackles issues of gender and power.”

Her site-specific response to the work is in the form of three large sculptures made of metal, rubber, and steel that reference the female body in “various states of use.” *Magician’s Assistant* consists of three separate blocks of dark metal connected by various-colored tubing set atop a large red sheet of rubber. *Circe’s Book*, rests on a table and invites viewers to touch; turning the huge, floppy rubber pages to glimpse the intriguing sketches and imagery becomes a fun, but physical act that requires two hands. The third work, *Two Person Operating System*, which consists of welded metal tubes, rubber hoses, and moveable metal spikes, will be the focus of a collaborative performance piece (of the same name) created by Susan Marshall & Company on November 16 (and again on November 19). Following the initial performance, Friedman and Marshall will hold an open conversation with Brooke Holmes, professor of classics at Princeton University, and Tina Campt, professor of Africana and women’s gender and studies at Barnard College.

**Location:** 1 East 78th Street

**Price:** Free

**Time:** Open daily through December 3, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. (Special performance and talk on November 16, see details above).

—Eileen Kinsella

**Monday, October 24–Friday, December 9**