

Prospect.3 leaves art critic Paddy Johnson confused and disappointed

In her detailed Oct. 31 review titled "[Prospect.3, Notes for Now: The Lesser Biennial](#)," on the website ArtFCity, Paddy Johnson struggles to navigate and understand New Orleans' third international arts festival (note: Since Johnson's review first appeared, Prospect has officially become a triennial). Johnson apparently visited the splendid first Prospect in 2008 and bases many of her criticisms of P.3 on the comparison. Her frustration begins to simmer in the first paragraph as she describes curator Franklin Sirman's opening remarks, which she found rambling, then comes to a boil in the second.

"Finding locations is a nightmare; users have the option of using an app we learned was built by a 16-year-old that is filled with locations listing only the street name and number (not the venue), or using paper maps that aren't to scale and consist only of tiny location dots. And my own experience, coupled with that of other critics, seems to indicate that despite all the excitement over the biennial's opening, somehow Prospect failed to excite the rest of the city. None of the museums offered reduced admission prices to the city's residents — the small print on Prospect's claim that biennial is free to the public. And aside from the commercial galleries we visited, telling New Orleans locals that 'We're here for Prospect' was most commonly returned with a shrug or a blank stare. This is a far cry from Prospect.1, in 2008, which worked with far more locals and actually drew their attention."

It would be comforting to argue with Johnson's observations in defense of Prospect.3, but the truth is, even to those of us very well versed in the city-wide exhibit, the blend of 58 official shows and innumerable less-

official shows dubbed P.3+ exhibits is bewildering. But the bigger problem, in Johnson's telling, is that P.3 lacks the emotional purpose of Prospect.1.

As she writes:

"This year, we're offered a biennial governed by a spreadsheet. It has its own strengths, certainly one of them being the incredible amount of diversity this show brings to the field of biennials, but there's simply nothing that comes close to approximating the ambition and heart that oozed from site-specific artworks produced for Prospect.1."

Johnson, who is based in New York, goes on to dissect several of the individual exhibits, finding many of them disappointing. Johnson's review appeared on Halloween, which means she reported on the event and wrote about it in less than a week.

Being the local art writer, I've had the luxury of visiting the individual exhibits over time. Truth is, I still haven't seen everything. I would not argue with most of Johnson's points, but my interaction with P.3 has been mellower and, in general, more positive. I plan to post a slow-cooked review of the entire exhibit sometime before the Jan. 25, 2015, closing date.

[For everything you need to know about Prospect.3: Notes for Now](#), read on ...

[Prospect.3](#)

What: "Prospect.3: Notes for Now" is an art festival featuring 58 individual exhibits of works by artists from around the country and world, displayed in 18 museums and other sites in New Orleans. The artists were selected by Franklin Sirmans, the curator of contemporary art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Prospect.3 also includes

several other popup exhibits that were not selected by Sirmans. These scattered exhibits are called P.3+ or satellite exhibits.

When: The exhibits are on view Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., through Jan. 25, 2015. The exhibit will be closed Nov. 27-28, Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1, 2015. University venues will have longer holiday hiatuses.

Admission: Admission to individual venues applies. Adult admission to the Contemporary Arts Center, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the New Orleans Museum of Art is \$10. Louisiana residents receive free admission to NOMA on Wednesdays, the Ogden on Thursdays and the CAC on Sundays. Visit the [Prospect.3 website](#).

Where: Prospect.3 official exhibits are located at the following sites, [with satellite shows in nearby communities](#).

Ashé Cultural Arts Center, 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. With works by Kerry James Marshall (USA).

AIA New Orleans Center for Design, 1000 St. Charles Ave. With works by Mary Ellen Carroll (USA).

City Park, 1 Palm Drive. With outdoor sculpture by Will Ryman (USA).

Contemporary Arts Center, 900 Camp St. With works by Manal AlDowayan (Saudi Arabia), Firelei Báez, (Dominican Republic), Zarina Bhimji

(Uganda), Douglas Bourgeois (Louisiana), Mohamed Bourouissa (Algeria), Thomas Joshua Cooper (USA), Charles Gaines (USA), Theaster Gates (USA), Pieter Hugo (South Africa), Yun-Fei Ji (China), Remy Jungerman (Suriname), Glenn Kaino (USA), Lucia Koch (Brazil), Sophie T. Lvoff (New Orleans), Pushpamala N. (India) with Clare Arni (Great Britain) and Joe Ray (USA), Analia Saban (Argentina), Lucien Smith (USA), Agus

Suwage (Indonesia) and David Zink Yi (Peru).

Isaac Delgado Fine Arts Gallery, Delgado Community College, 615 City Park Ave. With works by Piero Golia (Italy) and Entang Wiharso (Indonesia).

Dillard University Art Gallery, Cook Fine Arts and Communication Center, 2601 Gentilly Blvd. With works by Terry Adkins (USA) and William Cordova (Peru).

The Exchange Gallery, Arts Council of New Orleans, 935 Gravier St. With works by Liu Ding (China), Lisa Sigal (USA) and Tavares Strachan (Bahamas).

Joan Mitchell Center Studios, 1000 N. Rampart St. With works by McArthur Binion (USA), "Los Jaichackers" — Julio Cesar Morales and Eamon Ore- Girón (Mexico and USA), Akosua Adoma Owusu (USA), and Hayal Pozanti (Turkey).

Longue Vue House and Gardens, 7 Bamboo Road. With works by Shigeru Ban (Japan), Camille Henrot (France) and Antonio Vega Macotella (Mexico).

May Gallery and Residency, 2839 N. Robertson St. With works by Tameka Norris (New Orleans) and Garrett Bradley (New Orleans).

The George and Leah McKenna Museum of African American Art, 2003 Carondelet St. With works by Carrie Mae Weems (USA).

Newcomb Art Gallery, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University. With works by Monir Farmanfarmaian (Iran), Hew Locke (United Kingdom) and Ebony G. Patterson (Jamaica).

Note: Newcomb Gallery is on the Willow Street side of the Tulane University campus. Limited parking is available at the gallery. Two-hour

parking is possible on nearby Audubon Boulevard.

The New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture and History, 1418 Gov. Nicholls St. With works by Zarouhie Abdalian (New Orleans).

New Orleans Museum of Art, 1 Collins Diboll Circle, City Park. With works by Tarsila do Amaral (Brazil), Frederick J. Brown (USA), Huguette Caland

(Lebanon), Ed Clark (New Orleans), Andrea Fraser (USA), Paul Gauguin (France), Jeffrey Gibson (USA) and Alma Thomas (USA).

Ogden Museum of Southern Art, 925 Camp St. With works by Jean-Michel Basquiat (USA), Keith Calhoun (New Orleans), Chandra McCormick (New Orleans) and Herbert Singleton (New Orleans).

Tremé Market Branch Theater, 800 N. Claiborne Ave. With works by Gary Simmons (USA).

UNO St. Claude Gallery, 2429 St. Claude Ave. With works by The Propeller Group, featuring Phunam (Vietnam), Matt Lucero (USA), Tuan Andrew Nguyen (Vietnam) and Christopher Myers (USA).

Xavier University, 1 Drexel Drive. With works by Lonnie Holley (USA).

Attention P.3+ artists and art galleries: Share details, photos and videos of your exhibits at [NOLA.com/arts](https://www.nola.com/arts). In addition to the 58 official Prospect.3 exhibits, the city will soon blossom with innumerable popup exhibits and events that fall into a category called P.3+. The satellite exhibitions, as they are also known, will be too numerous to cover in detail, but we'd like to list as many as possible.

If you're having an event related to Prospect.3 and you want to invite our readers, please do so. Just [register and create profile on NOLA.com](https://www.nola.com/arts) and

post details of your opening, a link to your gallery, photos and your opinion of the big art fest in the comment stream beneath the story. Here are [some guidelines for posting comments](#).

[Upload your pictures](#) and tag them [#iBelongHere](#).

Don't be left out.