

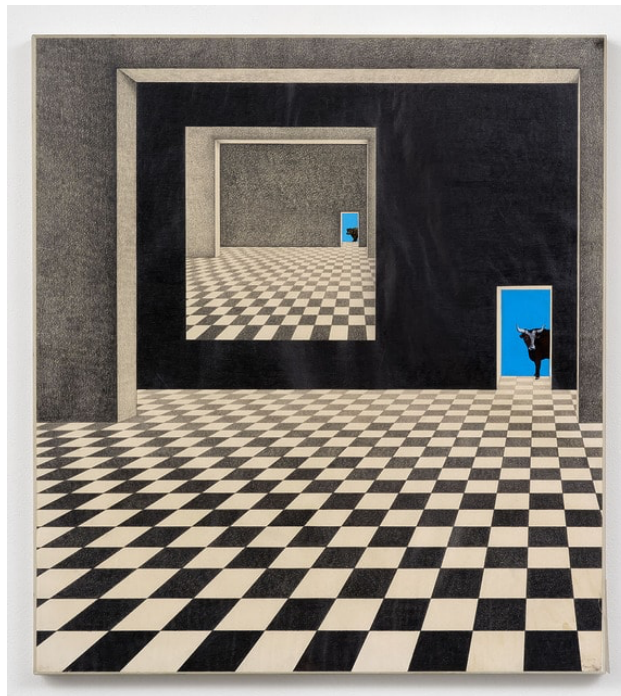
# Galerie

ART &amp; CULTURE

## 8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows in January

From Jeff Koons's monumental stainless-steel sculptures depicting gods, goddesses, and hunting beasts at Gagosian in New York, to the legendary Marisol's lively self-portrait drawings and lithographs at Matthew Marks Gallery in Los Angeles

BY PAUL LASTER  
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Marina Stern, *Bull and Bear*, (1967). Photo: Paul Salvesson. Courtesy of the artist's estate and Bel Ami

### 7. Marina Stern | Bel Ami, Los Angeles

An Italian-American painter known for her detailed, luminous depictions of industrial landscapes, architecture, and still lifes, the late Marina Stern was born in Venice, Italy, and fled to the United States in 1941 to escape racial and religious oppression. Based in New York, she built a 50-year career spanning movements from Pop Art to Neo-Immaculate Realism, characterized by sharply detailed, austere paintings and prints focused on the built environment and the modern American landscape. She cultivated a lifelong fascination with the interplay of light and shadow, resulting in imaginative paintings featuring warping patterns and frames, alongside pristine depictions of barns, cityscapes, and industrial sites.

The first retrospective dedicated to her work since her passing in 2017, the two-part exhibition “Luminary,” is presented by Bel Ami and CW American Modernism, with works on view at both galleries. The former displays a selection of whimsically surreal paintings from the 1960s, along with Stern’s 1980s still lifes, while the latter showcases the artist’s well-known American scenes. Standout paintings at Bel Ami include interior views of repeating rooms with checkerboard floors and windows or doorways opening to surreal scenes—one with a Renaissance maiden leading to a blue sky, another revealing three moons, and a third depicting a bull and a bear—along with sublime still lifes of a group of crumpled paper bags and a vase of red tulips on a reflective tabletop.