

ARTFORUM

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PRINT DECEMBER 2019

LYNNE COOKE

Lynne Cooke is Senior Curator for Special Projects at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. “Maneuver,” an exhibition she curated that explores aspects of Anni Albers’s diverse legacy, is on view at the Artist’s Institute, New York, through mid-December.

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“PATTERN AND DECORATION: ORNAMENT AS PROMISE” (MUSEUM MODERNER KUNST STIFTUNG LUDWIG WIEN, VIENNA; CURATED BY MANUELA AMMER)

The rehabilitation of Pattern and Decoration, often identified as the last movement in art history, gathered speed this year thanks to four shows that saluted, dissected, and contextualized it. Culled largely from the collection of Peter and Irene Ludwig, MUMOK’s standout show featured several mavericks, including the memorable Frank Faulkner, along with the core cast of Joyce Kozloff, Miriam Schapiro, Robert Zakanitch, et al. Deftly tempering the prevailing scholarly view that these artists were united by a single cohesive ethos, the curator opted for a probing scrutiny of P&D’s divergent impulses. The myriad epithets—*inclusive, irreverent, artisanal, countercultural, brash, subversive, camp, feminist*—usually advanced to define and fix this corpus indicate why it resonates so richly at present and suggest where it’s most vulnerable to critique.

Co-organized with Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst Aachen. The exhibition is on view until January 5, 2020, at the Ludwig Museum Budapest.