

# ANNA ZORINA GALLERY

## The New York Times

**ART & DESIGN**

### What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in February

**By Yinka Elujoba**

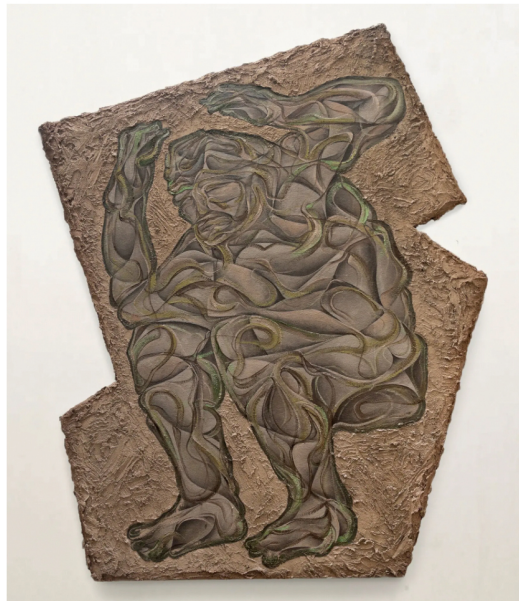
Published Feb. 1, 2024, Updated Feb. 7, 2024

*This week, Yinka Elujoba covers Hunter Amos's paintings and Wawi Navarroza's self-portraits in Chelsea, as well as Nathaniel Oliver's fantastical worlds in the East Village.*

CHELSEA

#### **Hunter Amos**

Through Feb. 24. Anna Zorina Gallery, 532 West 24 Street, Manhattan; 212-243-2100, [annazorinagallery.com](http://annazorinagallery.com).



Hunter Amos's "Self Depict NY 6" (2023), oil, acrylic and concrete on shaped canvas. Credit via Hunter Amos and Anna Zorina Gallery

Perhaps it is the colors — tones of a reddish brown almost the shade of mud, the palette of decorations on ancient Roman and Greek terra-cotta jars — that make the paintings instantly familiar, ancient, classical even. So it is a surprise to learn that the artist, Hunter Amos, is just 22. He is also new to New York and "Rough Hold," his first solo show in the city, is a kind of introduction.

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In 13 paintings, Amos situates his (usually male) figures in tight frames, with swirls of wavy paint crashing against rough stony surfaces. The shape of some of his oil paintings on concrete are cut with rough edges around and emulate the poses of the figures, creating an immense sense of confinement. It is as though the skins of his characters have been peeled off, revealing their inner workings, their veins and muscles stretched taut. Although the energy in these works is undeniable, it sometimes looks like the figures are trying to escape from their frames, or that their postures were forced upon them by the boundaries of the canvases.

Much of Amos's work depict his own struggles. The practical struggle of breaking out of Byron Bay in his native Australia two years ago to make it in New York; the limits of the picture plane itself, and the philosophical battle between liberation and containment. Amos's "Rough Hold" demonstrates a wisdom not often associated with beginners. This is an artist who has a lot to say and knows how he wants to say it.