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Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend From Jasper Johns at the Whitney to John Chamberlain at Gagosian

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John Chamberlain, Tambourinefrappe (2010). Photo: © 2021 Fairweather & Fairweather LTD / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy Gagosian.

John Chamberlain: Stance, Rhythm and Tilt

Until 11 December at Gagosian, 522 West 21st Street, Manhattan

The career-spanning exhibition marks the first major presentation of John Chamberlain's enigmatic crushed steel sculptures since his retrospective at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in 2012. Like the retrospective, the show has been organised by the eminent curator Susan Davidson, a friend and scholar of the late artist. "John was attentive to the toughness and physicality of his work—he was a real dude," Davidson says. Chamberlain's use of material and focus on scale was heavily influenced by his three-year term in the US Navy and his observation of the commanding power of industrial machinery. "He once said that if you get the scale right, the size doesn't matter," Davidson adds. The show comprises a series of automobile armatures that dwarf the viewer with their raw and undoubtedly masculine presence. For example, the massive Tambourinefrappe (2010) amalgamates a vintage car with strips of painted chromeplated steel. The works visually and linguistically invite scrupulous consideration. Each is poetically and sometimes humorously titled, echoing Chamberlain's study of poetry at Black Mountain College in the 1950s.