

EDITOR'S PICK

13 WAYS OF LOOKING AT AN ARTWORK THIS SEASON

by Meredith Mendelsohn | September 25, 2017

We've spotlighted a baker's dozen of exhibitions in Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, London, New York and San Francisco that'll get you into gallery-going mode this fall.

Terry Thompson at George Billis Gallery



Rio, 2016, by [Terry Thompson](#), on view at [George Billis Gallery](#). Photo courtesy of George Billis Gallery

Vying for the attention of passersby, roadside signs have long fascinated artists with their candy-wrapper colors, playful shapes, bright lights and vernacular typographies. It's usually roaming photographers who freeze them in time, but for San Francisco realist painter [Terry Thompson](#), they are irresistible fodder for the canvas.

Combing the streets for vintage motel, restaurant, theater and store marquees that have dodged the bulldozers of urban renewal, Thompson homes in on details — lettering, atomic-age symbols — and portrays those fragments up close.

The images gathered in "[Terry Thompson: Words & Pictures](#)," on view at Los Angeles's [George Billis Gallery](#) through October 21, hark back to the commercial imagery of postwar Pop, of course, but Thompson revisits the style after half a century of wear and tear, detailing chipping paint and rusting rivets. What we have are survivors from a distant era in more ways than one.