



SALON 94

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Timothy Washington

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Goings about Town

Timothy Washington

This seventy-four-year-old American artist grew up in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, not far from Simon Rodia's towers, and his own intriguing assemblages suggest anthropomorphic offspring of those famous steel-and-mosaic spires. Washington's first show in New York, "Pucker Up," was installed at the Salon 94 gallery in March, but it never opened to the public; happily, the photogenic six-decade survey can be viewed online. The heart of the show is a procession of elongated figures on a turquoise platform, exuding both totemic power and personal charm. "Love Thy Neighbor," from 1968, is an outlier made of metal and nails (Christian themes mingle with Afrofuturism in Washington's work); most of the other pieces are made of glue-soaked cotton on wire armatures, encrusted with ceramic fragments, jewelry, coins, buttons, beads, toys, and even clock faces. Washington's heartwarming straw-into-gold ingenuity is especially evident in a colorful character with a transparent, bauble-filled torso, whose title is "I Love You."