

## Martin Herbert picks ten October 2015 shows you don't want to miss

### **Jimmie Durham, Serpentine Gallery, London, 1 October – 8 November**

A brief performance I once saw: Jimmie Durham, at a desk, pretends to have a phone conversation, quarrels, takes 'advice', tosses a rock towards the audience, retrieves it, then smashes the alarm clock marking his time limit. Fin, applause, laughter. Outwardly absurd, the event garnered lucidity from the five decades in which the American artist has often charged situations with significance while also deconstructing them. Poet, sculptor, performer and activist, Durham works flexibly towards this end. He assembles faux ethnological artefacts (mixing skulls, psychedelic patterns, varieties of wood, car parts, oil cans, piping, etc) and appends texts and photographs that would seem elucidatory but mostly trigger an unravelling; or he takes something and adds something else – perhaps most distinctively by crushing cars with boulders – in which a supplement causes chaos. If connotation is pressured from without, though, there are political corollaries. The works are seamed with references to colonialism (Durham is of Cherokee descent) and ecology. Of late, his excellent early work has been increasingly aired, and so it goes at the Serpentine, where it mingles with 'new sculptures and key installations'.

**Mélanie Matranga, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 21 October – 10 January**

**Cerith Wyn Evans, Museion, Bolzano, 3 October – 10 January**

**Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Home, Manchester, through 1 November**

**Phyllida Barlow, Lokremise, St Gallen, through 9 November**

**Davis Rhodes, Société, Berlin, through 17 October**

**Sean Kennedy, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, through 25 October**

**Elad Lassry, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, through 5 November**

**Prem Sahib, Southard Reid, London, 7 October – 14 November**

**gerlach en koop, De Appel, Amsterdam, through 8 November**