



ART

Is Maximalism the Most Overlooked Art Movement Ever?

A new show at ICA Boston might just be the remedy.

By [NADJA SAYEJ](#) | Jul 11 2019, 12:20pm

Just when you thought minimalism was eternally in vogue, a new art exhibit proves otherwise, and it has the best title: “[Less is a Bore.](#)” The Boston ICA recently opened this group show, touting the movement's gaudy print, clashing colors and dizzying designs. Curator Jenelle Porter, who worked alongside assistant curator Jeffrey De Blois, says the inspiration partly came from interior design magazines and how fake they are.

wealth, that the less you have the more refined you are, but we all have maximalist tendencies.”

It all started by looking at the Pattern and Decoration art movement from the 1970s, an American art movement from the 1970s and 1980s, which includes works by Miriam Schapiro, Joyce Kozloff and Gloria Klein. It’s what Porter says, “has been somewhat forgotten.” But is maximalism an art movement, per se? “It wasn’t ideas of maximalism that guides these artists. I consider it an under-recognized approach, more than an art movement,” said Porter.

The exhibition, running until September 22, features artworks by Kehinde Wiley, Sol LeWitt, Polly Apfelbaum, Jasper Johns and the Memphis Group. Among them, here are five key pieces in the exhibit that bring life back to the gallery walls, from patterned wallpaper to a grandma’s tablecloth and Memphis Group furniture.