

HYPERALLERGIC

Art

10 Offbeat Art Events During LA's Art Fair Week

Performances, listening parties, exhibitions, and art bars provide a much-needed break from the market-driven frenzy.



Matt Stromberg February 20, 2024



Volta Collective's Glass House ensemble, left to right: Joyln Lambey, Chadwick Auriol Gaspard, Cacia Lacount, Gbenga Komolafe, Paul Liu and Mamie Green (photo by Anya GTA, courtesy Central Server Works)

LOS ANGELES — In just over a week, three art fairs will be popping up throughout Los Angeles: Frieze at the Santa Monica Airport, Felix at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, and Spring Break in Culver City. While much of the LA art world will be spending their days navigating the cavernous tents of Frieze or lounging by the Hockney pool at the Roosevelt, there are several cultural events taking place throughout the city that offer alternatives to the market-driven machinations of the fairs. Raffi and AI's art bar provides a communal setting for a cocktail, JOJO ABOT blurs boundaries with their multidisciplinary performance, a Teddy Sandoval listening party showcases intergenerational creative networks, and more.

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Central Server Works Presents Volta's *Glass House*

Glass House is an interactive, multidisciplinary theater piece in which audience members and performers will collaborate to shape the course of the work. Drawing on choreographer Merce Cunningham's notions of chance and Jungian theories of home, each night's performance will take a different form, based on the choices of the audience-cum-participants. Presented by art gallery Central Server Works, directed by Mamie Green, and written by Sammy

Loren and Zoey Greenwald, *Glass House* features sculptures by Gbenga Komolafe and music by composer Patrick Shiroishi.

Volta Collective (voltacollective.com)

G-Son Studios, 3218 Glendale Boulevard, Atwater Village, Los Angeles

February 29–March 3, 8pm nightly (\$30)



Terry Allen photographed by Scott Ballew performing at the Paramount Theatre, Austin, TX, 2019

Terry Allen & the Panhandle Mystery Band: “Music Beyond the Grave!”

For six decades, Terry Allen has worked across a diverse spectrum of media to create dark narratives of the American West that combine myth, humor, and pathos. Alongside, or perhaps intertwined with, his artistic practice, Allen has released 14 albums, beginning with *Juarez* (1975), an alt-country concept record that recounts an ill-fated road trip criss-crossing the US-Mexico border. In conjunction with LA Louver’s presentation of his work at Frieze, Allen and the Panhandle Mystery Band will bring their unique brand of cowboy noir to the Masonic Lodge at Hollywood Forever.

LA Louver (lalouer.com)

Hollywood Forever, 5970 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood, Los Angeles

Wednesday, February 28 & Thursday, February 29, 8pm (\$75)



Raffi and Al's at Art Basel Miami in 2023 (photo by Christine Minas, courtesy Raffi Kalenderian and Alberto Cuadros)

Raffi and Al's Legendary Garden Party

Inspired by famous watering holes frequented by artists, such as the Kronenhalle Bar in Zurich and the now defunct Hop Louie in LA's Chinatown, Raffi Kalenderian and Alberto Cuadros created Raffi and Al's, a mobile pop-up that acts as "a trojan horse for good times," according to Kalenderian. During Frieze, they'll be stationed at Vielmetter Los Angeles, transforming the gallery's greenhouse space into an updated fern bar filled with plants, mimosas, and DJ sets by friends and colleagues. The bar will be accompanied by a salon-style group show of works on paper and sculptures by Dan Levenson, Bart Exposito, Becky Kolsrud, Rochele Gomez, Ross Simonini, Jonas Wood, Mimi Lauter, Ry Rocklen, and many, many more.

Vielmetter Los Angeles (vielmetter.com)

1700 South Santa Fe Avenue, #101, Downtown, Los Angeles

February 27–March 2



Installation view of *Los Angeles Bar* at In Lieu / Ethan Tate Gallery (photo by Nik Massey, courtesy In Lieu / Ethan Tate Gallery)

Ficus Interfaith's *Los Angeles Bar* and *Second Pour*

The collaborative duo known as Ficus Interfaith has turned In Lieu / Ethan Tate Gallery into an actual saloon for their aptly-titled exhibition *Los Angeles Bar*, anchored by their functional terrazzo constructions. While Frieze is in town, they're creating an offsite version, *Second Pour*, in Echo Park, which features a group show curated by Anna Frost featuring Isabelle McGuire, Louis Osmosis, Flannery Silva, Greg Carideo, and others. On Sunday, March 3, the space will present a West Coast version of the New York karaoke event *Throats*, hosted by Lena Greene.

In Lieu / Ethan Tate Gallery (inlieu.online)

EARTH, 1530 Echo Park Avenue, Echo Park, Los Angeles

February 27, March 1, March 2, 6–9pm; March 3, 5–8pm



JOJO ABOT (photograph courtesy of the artist)

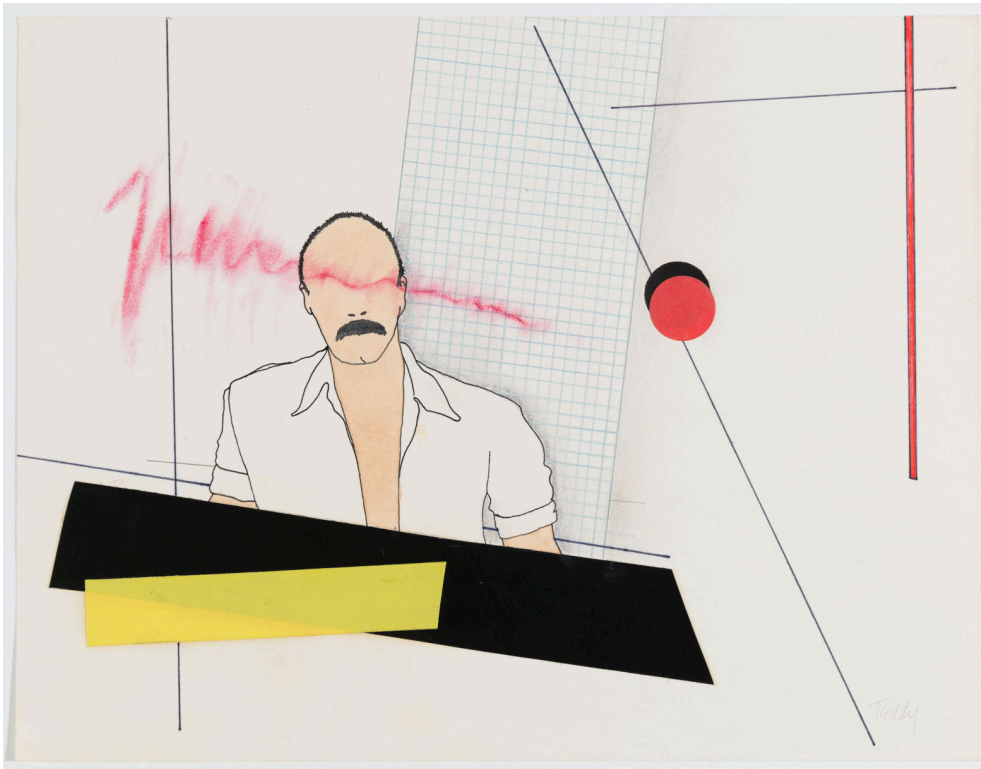
JOJO ABOT: A God of Her Own Making

JOJO ABOT incorporates sculpture, film, painting, and performance into her multi-layered practice, drawing on aesthetic and cultural traditions from her West African heritage as well as her diasporic experience living in Ghana, Kenya, Copenhagen, the United States, and elsewhere. In conjunction with her current exhibition at LA Louver, ABOT will stage ***A God of Her Own Making***, an immersive theatrical presentation that fuses dance, music, costume, and projections into a mesmerizing vision of female-centered futurism.

LA Louver (lalouver.com)

LA Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, California

March 1, 6–8:30pm, **RSVP required**



Teddy Sandoval, "Untitled" (c. late 1970s–1980s), mixed media and collage on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (image courtesy Paul Polubinskas, Teddy Sandoval Estate)

Teddy Sandoval Closing Program

Teddy Sandoval and the Butch Gardens School of Art at the Vincent Price Art Museum highlights the career of this pivotal member of the Latinx and queer avant-garde in Los Angeles, who passed away in 1995. Sandoval was also deeply involved in the disco music scene, working from 1979 through 1984 as the creative head of Ron's Records, a shop with locations in San Francisco's Castro District, Long Beach, and LA. The closing reception will feature an exhibition walkthrough with reflections on Sandoval's legacy shared by contemporary artists and writers Alex Donis, Consuelo G. Flores, Raquel Gutiérrez, and Daniel Arthur Mendoza, followed by DJ sets by Blackmuseumist and DJ Inquieto spinning LP's from Sandoval's personal collection.

Vincent Price Art Museum (vincentpriceartmuseum.org)

1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, California

March 2, 1–4pm



The Wrinkle Room's "Pill Bottle Curtain" by Tawny Featherston (photo by and courtesy Liz Garo)

The Wrinkle Room

Founded by Michelle Carr and Marcus Kuiland-Nazario, *The Wrinkle Room* is a salon and performance series showcasing the work of artists and musicians “of a certain age.” Next week, The Wrinkle Room will be joined by Washington, DC-based nonprofit **Transformer** to celebrate the West Coast launch of the book *transformer20*, which traces the organization’s first two decades. The event begins with a coffee talk with Kuiland-Nazario and Transformer Founder and Director Victoria Reis, followed by a panel discussion on *The Art of Collaboration* moderated by Anuradha Vikram and a surprise performance.

Track 16 Gallery ([eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com))

1206 Maple Avenue, Downtown, Los Angeles

February 29, 4–9pm



Still from *Red Night* (2023) (image courtesy Beck + Col)

***Red Night* Film Screening**

Red Night (2023) is an experimental monster movie that follows a family of five creatures as they struggle against an evil force that has invaded their placid home. Drawing on stylish Italian *giallo* horror films of the 1970s, such as Dario Argento's *Suspria* (1977) and *Profondo Rosso* (1975), creative duo Beck + Col crafted color-saturated sets and bespoke creature costumes, which become drenched in buckets of cinematic blood as the narrative unfolds. In keeping with the film's theme of communal solidarity and collaboration, the monsters' home is furnished with artwork by 10 artists including Alicia Piller, Amia Yokoyama, Minga Opazo, Ofelia Marquez, Tanya Brodsky, and others.

The Philosophical Research Society (welcometolace.org)

3910 Los Feliz Boulevard, Los Feliz, Los Angeles

February 25, 2–5 pm, free with RSVP



David Horvitz's garden (photo courtesy the artist)

David Hammons Group Show

The inspiration for this exhibition began with an anecdote, possibly apocryphal, told to artist David Horvitz by a neighbor who claimed that David Hammons used to sell styrofoam balls on Crenshaw Boulevard in the 1970s. If true, this would predate his New York snowball performances, shifting the creative origin of this well-known work from NYC to LA. Co-organized by Horvitz and nonprofit artspace **JOAN**, *David Hammons* picks up on the questionable veracity of this rumor, allowing artists to engage in similar acts of speculation and invention along the curving paths of Horvitz's urban garden. Participating artists include Carmen Argote, John Birtle, Asuka Hisa, Lukas Geronimas, Nancy Lupo, Shana Lutker, Sarah Rara, Jeff Weiss, and many more, but not David Hammons.

JOAN (joanlosangeles.org)

1911 7th Avenue, Arlington Heights, Los Angeles

February 29–March 3, noon–sunset; reception March 2, 2–6pm

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