

FORT GANSEVOORT

Hyperallergic Los Angeles Art Guide
Your list of must-see, fun, insightful, and very Los Angeles art events.

SPRING 2020
HYPERALLERGIC



CALIDA RAWLES: A DREAM FOR MY LIUTH @ VARIOUS SMALL FIRES Calida Rawles, "Not Yet Titled" (2019), acrylic on canvas. 84 x 72 inches. Image courtesy the artist and Various Small Fires, Los Angeles / Seoul

Hyperallergic is a forum for playful, serious, and radical perspectives on art and culture in the world today. Hyperallergic focuses on publishing quality writing and images from informed and provocative perspectives. Founded in 2009, Hyperallergic is headquartered in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

After putting together this guide of around 60 Los Angeles exhibitions, I realized how many art spaces and artists are engaging meaningfully and deeply with the times we live in. The art world can often feel like a disillusioned bubble, but sometimes it manages to get it right. The exhibitions this spring overwhelmingly focus on contemporary art, exploring, for instance, a prevalent "witchy" sensibility, representations of Afro-Latinx communities, and how artists are incorporating words into their work. There are also a few historical shows that feel particularly relevant, such as surveys on the political photomontagist John Heartfield and the brilliant overlooked artist Dora Maar.

We've organized the guide according to the month the exhibitions opened. However, many of them stay open for a while, so don't skip over those months that have already passed!

We publish these guides every spring and fall, and also publish digital versions on our website. Every Wednesday we send out an LA newsletter spotlighting art events in the city and sharing reviews and news. You can sign up at hyperallergic.com/newsletters.

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Lucio Fontana. Walking the Space: Spatial Environments, 1948-1968
Hauser & Wirth
February 13-April 12

Before Yayoi Kusama and James Turrell began drawing blockbuster crowds with their immersive installations, the late Italian artist Lucio Fontana merged color, form, light, and space through Spatialism, a movement he founded to combine his interest in art and technology. This retrospective of a conceptual innovator little known in the US reconstructs the artist's ephemeral "Spatial Environments."

901-909 E 3rd Street,
Arts District, Los Angeles

Zoya Cherkassky: Soviet Childhood
Fort Gansevoort Los Angeles
February 15-March 28

This is the second half of Zoya Cherkassky's riveting exhibition of paintings and drawings of Soviet daily life. The artist was 15 years old when the USSR collapsed, and many of her artworks are scenes from a child's perspective. At turns humorous, mundane, and incisive, the works draw from both the artist's memory and from historical research.

4859 Fountain Avenue,
East Hollywood, Los Angeles

Inside the Mask
Hammer Museum
February 15-May 17

This collaborative exhibition with the Fowler Museum at UCLA takes a look at Central American cultural, political, and economic realities through the lens of masks used in sacred rites and festivals. Related programming will feature artists and activists who work across borders and mediums to uplift the lives and stories of Central American communities.

10899 Wilshire Boulevard,
Westwood, Los Angeles

Ree Morton: The Plant That Heals May Also Poison
ICA LA
February 16-June 14

In 1977, visual artist Ree Morton's career was cut short by her untimely death at 40 years old. In the preceding decade, she created works—sculptures, drawings, and installations that were unabashedly sentimental and feminine, elevating both as worthy of artistic inquiry—at a furious pace, as if making up for lost time. This exhibition of artworks and archival materials takes a close look at an artist whose aesthetic and feminist legacies extend to the present day.

1717 E 7th Street,
Downtown, Los Angeles

Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
February 16-May 3

At 99 years old, Luchita Hurtado has lived and experienced several lifetimes' worth of art movements and historical events. The artist's body of work, which spans seven decades, has evolved alongside these currents, ranging from biomorphic abstraction to self-portraits and landscape paintings depicting women's bodies as manifestations of nature and power. A much belated spotlight on a remarkable life and career, this exhibition is the first major survey of paintings and drawings by the Santa Monica-based artist.

5905 Wilshire Boulevard,
Mid-Wilshire, Los Angeles

In Verbis Artis
Hoffritz Milken Center for
Typography (HMCT)
February 22-May 23

Artists have a way of reinvigorating language and challenging how we use words. This exhibition brings together Los Angeles-based artists who incorporate and question language in their work, drawing on practices such as graffiti and conceptual art. Artists include Gajin Fujita, Alexandra Grant, Mark Steven Greenfield, Jason Manley, Rebecca Ripple, Steve Roden, and Jody Zellen.

950 S Raymond Avenue,
Pasadena, California

afroLATInidad: mi casa, my city
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
February 22-July 20

This exhibition intends to highlight the Afro-Latinx community, which is often misrepresented and neglected, particularly in mainstream and institutional contexts. The display will feature personal objects and artworks from LA's Afro-Latinx community, including clothing, jewelry, photographs, musical instruments, recipes, and devotional objects. There will also be a full recreation of an Afro-Latinx home.

501 N Main Street,
Downtown, Los Angeles

Wrong is Right: Remembering John Baldessari
Mixografía
February 22-April 4

John Baldessari, who died in January of this year in Venice, was an especially beloved artist and teacher in Los Angeles. This exhibition remembers Baldessari through the editions he made with print publishers across LA, including El Nopal Press, Jacob Samuel, Gemini GEL, and Mixografía. You'll also have the chance to see some of his special video works from the 1970s.

1419 E Adams Boulevard,
Central-Alameda, Los Angeles



LUCIO FONTANA. WALKING THE SPACE: SPATIAL ENVIRONMENTS, 1948 - 1968. Lucio Fontana, "Ambiente spaziale a luce nera" (1948-1949), installation view, Museo d'Arte Mendrisio, 2008 © Fondazione Lucio Fontana by SIAE 2020, photo by Stefano Spinelli



ZOYA CHERKASSKY: SOVIET CHILDHOOD. Zoya Cherkassky, "80's Disco" (2019), oil on linen, 59 x 51 1/4 inches. Image courtesy the artist and Fort Gansevoort



INSIDE THE MASK. Guri & Santana, "Nagual Guacaro, protector del agua, Guacari, Colombia" (2016) © Guri Arte and Santana Arte



LUCHITA HURTADO: I LIVE I DIE I WILL BE REBORN. Luchita Hurtado, "Untitled" (c. 1951), crayon and ink, 24 x 18 inches. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Janet Dreisen Rappaport through the 2019 Collectors Committee, © Luchita Hurtado. Image courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, photo by Genevieve Hanson



IN VERBIS ARTIS. Gajin Fujita, "Play Mate" (2007), gold leaf, acrylic, paint marker, spray paint and Mean Streak on panel, 60 x 108 inches, six panels. Image courtesy the artist and LA Louver



WRONG IS RIGHT: REMEMBERING JOHN BALDESSARI. John Baldessari with "Stonehenge (With Two Persons) Orange" (2005), Mixografía print on handmade paper. Image courtesy Mixografía.



AFRO LATINIDAD: MI CASA, MY CITY. "Childhood" Image courtesy Janelle Hartley