

LA WEEKLY[®]

CHEERS TO DRY JANUARY - A SELECTION OF MOCKTAILS

WALLIE THE SENSEI IS HERE TO STAY

OUR CRITICS REVIEW *M3GAN*, *THE PALE BLUE EYE* AND *WHITE NOISE*

JANUARY 13 - 19, 2023 / VOL. 45 / NO. 10
LAWEEEKLY.COM



ART SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT TO SEE THIS WINTER AND SPRING **BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT**



10 Tarpon Isle, Palm Beach

Once in a lifetime Legacy Estate— One-of-a-Kind Private Island with 360 degrees of water views and privacy.

This spectacular estate is the Only Private Island on all of Palm Beach. Developed by Todd Michael Glaser.

Exclusive New Offering - \$218,000,000 | Christian J. Angle 561.629.3015

C 561.629.3015

T 561.659.6551

E cjangle@anglerealestate.com

www.AngleRealEstate.com

Though information is assumed to be correct, offerings are subject to verification, errors, omissions, prior sale, and withdrawal without notice.
All material herein is intended for informational purposes only and has been compiled from sources deemed reliable. Renderings are for marketing purposes only.



ANGLE.REAL.ESTATE

BIDEN GRANTS CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY AID AS RAINSTORMS RAVAGE THE STATE

An 'atmospheric river' has caused damaging flooding, mudslides and taken the lives of multiple Californians, as 90% of the state has battled the violent storm.

BY ISAI ROCHA



Gov. Newsom tours a flood safety project site along Deer Creek in Sacramento County. (Governor's Press Office)

U.S. President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for California Monday after intense rainstorms caused severe damage across the state.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom requested the declaration Sunday and will now receive support from the Dept. of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when needed to "save lives and protect property."

"Our message to Californians is simple: be hyper-vigilant," Newsom said Monday. "There are still several days of severe winter weather ahead, and we need all Californians to be alert and heed the advice of emergency officials. Thanks to the President signing off on our request for emergency declaration, we are mobilizing all available resources at every level of government to protect lives and limit storm damage."

As of Monday, there were 12 deaths

linked to the storm as severe flooding, mudslides and collapsed roadways have affected the majority of the state.

Nearly more fatalities occurred, as 14 people had to be rescued after a Ventura County homeless encampment was flooded below a bridge on the 110 freeway.

"We are in the middle of a deadly barrage of winter storms – and California is using every resource at its disposal to protect lives and limit damage," Gov. Newsom said. "We are taking the threat from these storms seriously, and want to make sure that Californians stay vigilant as more storms head our way."

When Newsom turned in the state's budget proposal Tuesday, he said he added \$202 million to be allocated toward flood protection measures, on top of past funding that has gone toward flooding efforts.

All of Los Angeles County received flash flood alerts for multiple days, with the National Weather Service, Los Angeles issu-

ing a special weather statement to parts of Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Topanga, warning of possible water spouts off the coast.

The neighborhood of Chatsworth was baffled by a 15-foot deep sinkhole Tuesday, which swallowed two vehicles and triggered a rescue of the vehicle passengers. Los Angeles Fire Dept. firefighters were able to extract a woman and young girl after which they were taken to the hospital to treat minor injuries.

LAX also was affected by the intense rainstorms, having all departing flights grounded for several hours and dozens of flights delayed into the midnight hour Monday.

Evacuations and road closures have affected those living and traveling hillside, with cities in both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties experiencing dangerous flooding and mudslides.

The rainstorms are projected to continue through the weekend and into next Tuesday.

DODGERS CUT TIES WITH TREVOR BAUER AFTER SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS DERAILED HIS TENURE WITH TEAM

The Dodgers opted not to keep pitcher Trevor Bauer on the team after sexual assault allegations led Major League Baseball to keep him off the field for more than a year.

Bauer's contract was "designated for assignment," which means the organization will not be placing him in the 40-player roster going into the next season.

"The Dodgers organization believes that allegations of sexual assault or domestic violence should be thoroughly investigated, with due process given to the accused," the Dodgers said in a statement Friday. "Now that this process has been completed and after careful consideration, we have decided that he will no longer be part of the organization."

In response to the Dodgers decision, Bauer put out a statement via his legal team, saying he was disappointed in the team's decision.

"While we were unable to communicate throughout the administrative leave and arbitration process, my representatives spoke to Dodgers leadership immediately following the arbitration decision," the statement said. "Following two weeks of conversations around my return to the organization, I sat down with Dodgers leadership in Arizona yesterday who told me that they wanted me to return and pitch for the team this year. While I am disappointed by the organization's decision today, I appreciate the wealth of support I've received from the Dodgers clubhouse. I wish the players all the best and look forward to competing elsewhere."

In February 2022, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office announced it would

not file criminal charges against Bauer after reviewing the investigation conducted by Pasadena PD.

The L.A. district attorney's office said it could not "prove the relevant charges beyond reasonable doubt," leaving any further punishment up to MLB.

The league attempted to hand Bauer a suspension that carried into the 2023 season, but an independent arbitrator reduced the suspension to "time served," allowing Bauer to return to the field.

Despite Bauer being designated for assignment, the Dodgers will continue to pay him the remaining \$22.5 million on his contract, with any other team able to sign him for a league minimum of \$720,000. The Dodgers also have a week to trade him while he is still under team control.

Bauer refuted claims made by the accuser, at one point saying, "the judge's legal detailed decision is available and it speaks for itself."

In October 2021, Bauer's legal team commented on the allegations, saying, "Mr. Bauer had a brief and wholly consensual sexual relationship initiated by [the woman] beginning in April 2021," adding that both encounters ended with the woman leaving Bauer's residence "without incidence."

P-22 TO BE MEMORIALIZED AT THE GREEK THEATER

A "celebration of life" memorial for P-22, the famed mountain lion who called L.A. home, will be held at the Greek Theatre on Feb. 4.

Tickets to the free event were offered Monday through Ticketmaster and were completely "sold out" by the end of the day.

With tickets being gone, the Greek Theatre said the event would be live-streamed for fans of the cougar to watch from home between noon and 2 p.m. PST.

The outdoor stadium event is said to have live music, dancing and food, with a surprise of guests scheduled to speak.

"We will all be grappling with the loss for some time, trying to make sense of a Los Angeles without this magnificent wild creature," the event description reads. "Let's come together as a community to celebrate his remarkable life."

P-22 was euthanized on Dec. 17, 2022 after sustaining critical injuries from a presumed car accident, combined with a history of illness.

The cougar was found in a residential backyard in Los Feliz, outside of his typical Griffith Park settlement and thoroughly examined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Los Angeles first discovered the mountain lion in 2012, with the city falling in love with its gracefulness and story of a 50-mile route through the Santa Monica mountains. [E]

FOOD

SOBER CURIOUS?

Cheers To Dry January

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

A survey from CGA, a food and drink research firm, found that in January of 2022, 35% of legal-aged U.S. adults skipped alcohol for the entire month.

That sober curious momentum continues to pick up steam this year as bars all over town are rolling out a multitude of mocktails for dry January. Here's a taste.

Piccalilli in Culver City has an updated mocktail menu for the sober curious, including:

Preserved Persimmon + Tonic – Crisp and delicious Fuyu persimmons preserved in salt and sugar muddled with premium Q Spectacular Tonic, garnished with aromatic Kaffir lime leaf.

Yoo-Hunan – Piccalilli's take on the nostalgic glass-bottled chocolate drink using homemade five-spice cocoa syrup, non-alcoholic orgeat, oat milk and chocolate mole bitters.

Preserved Persimmon + Tonic (Piccalilli)



Coconut Kiwi Lassi – This emerald concoction pairs kiwi fruit and fresh-squeezed lime juice with coconut cream and vanilla-sesame-cinnamon syrup.



Esters Bar Manager Jonah Atkins Making Drinks



Seedlip Espresso Martini Cocktail Setting

Elevate. Your. Munchies.

PBJ



Located in Grand Central Market - DTLA We Cater Too! PBJ.LA

Best PB&J On The Planet.

Farmers Market Smash – Santa Monica Farmers Market fruit, herbs, lemon, simple syrup and soda

Persimmon Highball – Salt-preserved persimmon, fresh tonic and Kaffir lime leaf

Passion Fruit Lemonade – Piccalilli's elevated, sweet and tart take on a lemonade

For more sober options, saunter across the street to the **Culver Hotel**, which has partnered with Los Angeles-based **Optimist Drinks**, whose three botanical spirits are each inspired by a different part of LA. The new menu is created around their Bright expression, with a flavor profile influenced by Venice Beach. The menu pairs well with the hotel's weekly Silent Movie Nights or Live Music. **The Cucumber Cooler** combines Optimist Bright, cucumber, yuzu and Jalapeno; **The Bright New Year** is a mix of Optimist Bright, ginger, honey and lemon; and the Pear Affair is made with low ABV Optimist Bright, lemon, pineapple, spiced pear liqueur and aromatic bitters.

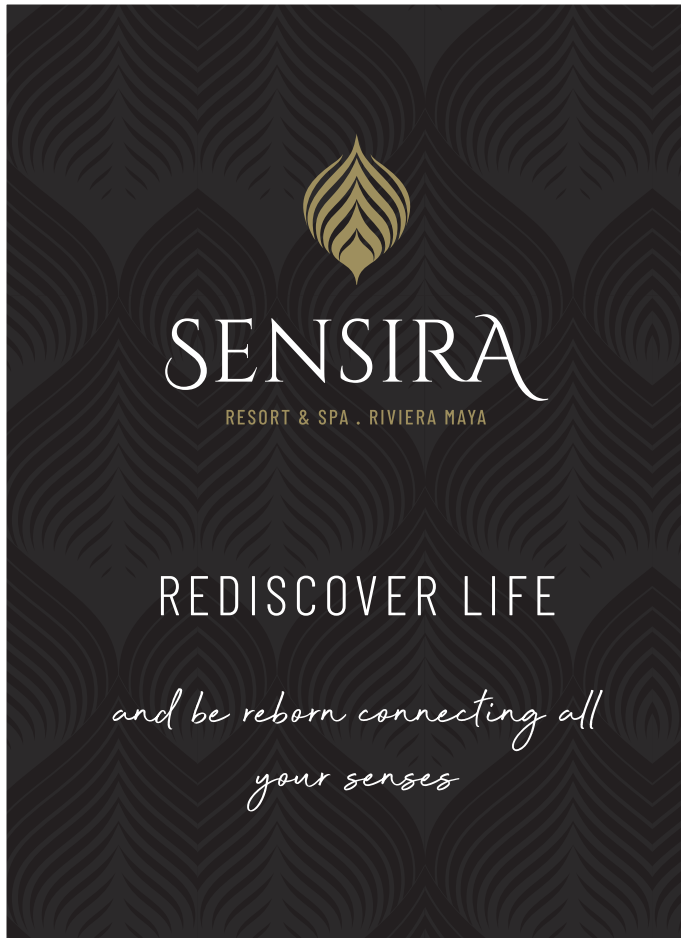
Esters in Santa Monica will offer non-alcoholic versions of the classic Penicil-

lin and French 75s, as well as the Herbal Remedy featuring Clean's non-alcoholic gin, rosemary syrup and fresh lemon juice, and a Ghia Gimlet with Ghia ginger, sage syrup and fresh lime juice.

Martini & Rossi has two new non-alcoholic Italian aperitifs on the roster, **Floreale** and **Vibrante** (SRP \$19.99 per bottle with floral and citrus flavors that can be sipped on their own or topped with soda water over ice for an easy, refreshing, non-alcoholic spritz).

On the first of each month in 2023, **Magic Hour teas** will introduce formulated potions of flavors from around the world, focused on supporting specific areas of wellness with their new **Wanderlust** Tea Collection. Inspired by exotic places from all around the globe, each is vibrant in color, and promotes healing and wellness goals. January brings Tulum Horchata Chai from the Mexican Riviera.

And for a twist on the current espresso martini craze, here's a mocktail recipe from **Seedlip**, the non-alcoholic spirits brand for a Espresso **MartINO**. [A]



LUXURY ALL INCLUSIVE RESORT | Riviera Maya

Enjoy the experience of a 100% Mexican resort, a place for stimulating your emotions and sharing with your loved ones. Enjoy our friendly service and be surprised by every little detail in an atmosphere that combines fun and rest... An experience to seduce your senses.



Sensitive *Gourmet, Playtime & Wellness* Experience.



RESERVATIONS:
USA/CAD: 855 212 1384
sensiraresorts.com



ART

ART SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

What to See this Winter and Spring

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



January is always a great excuse to reset the big-show calendar with a fresh season, and it's also the run-up to the new tradition of Art Week Los Angeles (don't call it Frieze Week) in February. That will be its own weather system, and more to come on that later. In the meantime, here are 12 exhibitions — from kings of pop to queens of new history, diasporic and hyper-local visions, mixed media extravaganzas, and tech-forward adventures that already have our full attention and they haven't even opened yet.

JANUARY

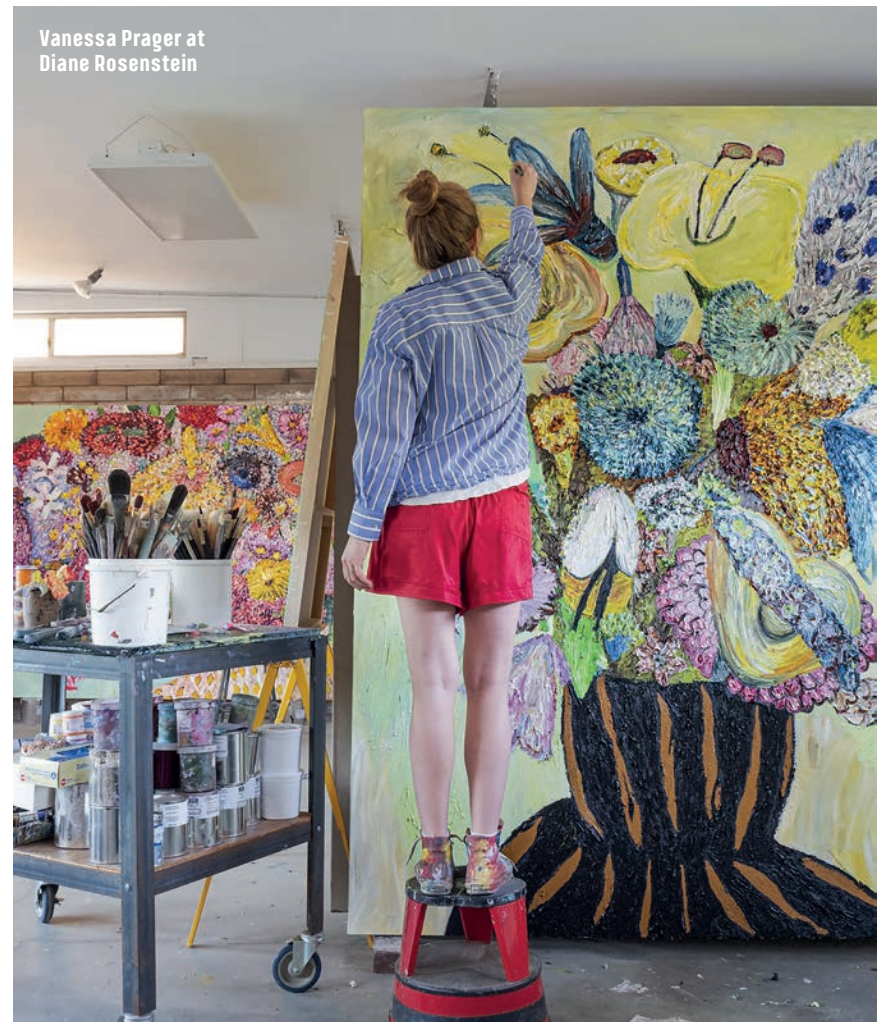
Kehinde Wiley: Colorful Realm at Roberts Projects

The gallery inaugurates its new Mid-Wilshire space with the latest body of work from superstar Kehinde Wiley — a 17th century Japanese-influenced series that, while it continues with the artist's signature heroic portraiture and botanical motif, goes to a more minimal (at least by Wiley's standards) aesthetic mode. Rather than vehemently lush, verdant, blossoming plant life for which he is known, in these works, the arboreal presence is fragile, fragmented, and hovering in voided spaces. This changes

not only the human dynamic within the embedded narrative, but also strikes a more pensive emotional tone with the viewer, enacting a different kind of critique on imperialist conventions of art history — one that seems to trade celebration for caution. 442 S. La Brea, Mid-Wilshire; Jan. 21 - April 8; Opening Reception Saturday, Jan. 21, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; robertsprojectsla.com.

Alicia Piller: Within at Craft Contemporary

Mixed media sculptor Alicia Piller and super-curator jill moniz have conceptualized an environmental installation in a massive, fractal choreography of resin, latex, xeroxes, dried plants, stones, and an array of found objects and salvaged materials with their own narrative backstories. Piller's special gift has been to repurpose the scraps, armatures, and byproducts of garments and body-centric design into tumultuous, evocative, abstract, biomorphic, architectural objects and material gestures. In this exhibition, her vision grows in scale and scope to create a more operatic, immersive space, which must be entered rather than merely observed — in the name of presenting not only



the results of her recombinant cultural rescues, but a look inside the system of elemental forces that animate them. 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile; Jan. 29 - May 7; Opening reception: Saturday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; craftcontemporary.org.

Amir H. Fallah: The Fallacy of Borders at the Fowler Museum

Across painting, sculpture, stained glass, and textiles — all bursting with an intoxicating overload of rich, fine detail, chromatic adventurism, personal, cultural, and geopolitical symbolism, and art historical wit — Amir H. Fallah investigates persistent questions of identity, intimacy, biography, knowledge, duty of care, diaspora, and legacy. Within a deliberate fusion of inherited and invented citations from literature, pop culture, and global traditions, Fallah weaves together ornate compositions of shrouded figures, dense patterns in florals and textiles, trompe l'oeil motifs of windows and stretcher bars, meaningful objects like photographs and jewelry borrowed from the private altars of his sitters, to create masterpieces of casual surrealism and profound humanity. 308

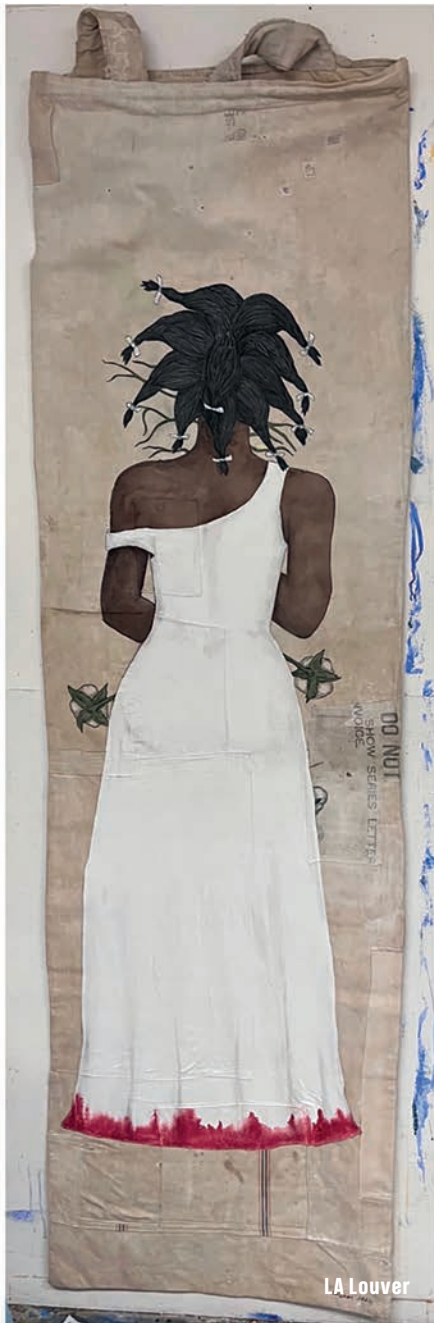
Charles E. Young Dr., Westwood; Jan. 29 - May 14; Opening reception: Saturday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; fowler.ucla.edu.

FEBRUARY

Alison Saar: Uproot at L.A. Louver

Sculptor, painter and printmaker Alison Saar's infinite and ineffable permutations of reclamation borrow from centuries of folk traditions, fine art paradigms, and pop culture references to generate modern ancestral embodiments of Black female power and agency. Centered in experiences written on bodies in history and lived experience, Saar's purview extends from commentary on the persistent misunderstanding of Black hair, to the transcendence of music, the mythology and murderous reality of the Middle Passage, and the kaleidoscope of joy, pain, triumph and tribulation whose contours trace the Black experience in America. In Uproot, this vision lands on a set of narratives about the ancient and present-day struggle for abortion rights as a key facet of true freedom — the right to control one's own body in every setting. 45

Uproot, 2022 108
x 27 x 4 inches
Charcoal and acrylic
on vintage patched
cotton picking bag
and found hooks
and chain



N. Venice Blvd., Venice; Feb. 1 - March 11; Opening reception: Wednesday, Feb. 1, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; lalouver.com.

Coded: Art Enters the Computer Age, 1952-1982 at LACMA

Every generation thinks they're the first to have ideas. And while it's true that art has well and truly entered an unprecedented era of computing and digital modalities, that only makes it more imperative than ever to consider the contexts and historical origins of this affection for coding. As early as 1950, artists — not to mention writers, musicians, choreographers and filmmakers — were, as they so often are, on the cutting edge of curiosity about

the arrival of mediums of the future. This survey examines not only these early forays into a brave new world of art-making that directly involved manipulating and mediating the available technology, but also many for whom the cultural and societal implications of computing, as well as the psychological and cognitive shifts that would inevitably follow, were a subject of their own. *5905 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile; Feb. 12 - July 2; lacma.org.*

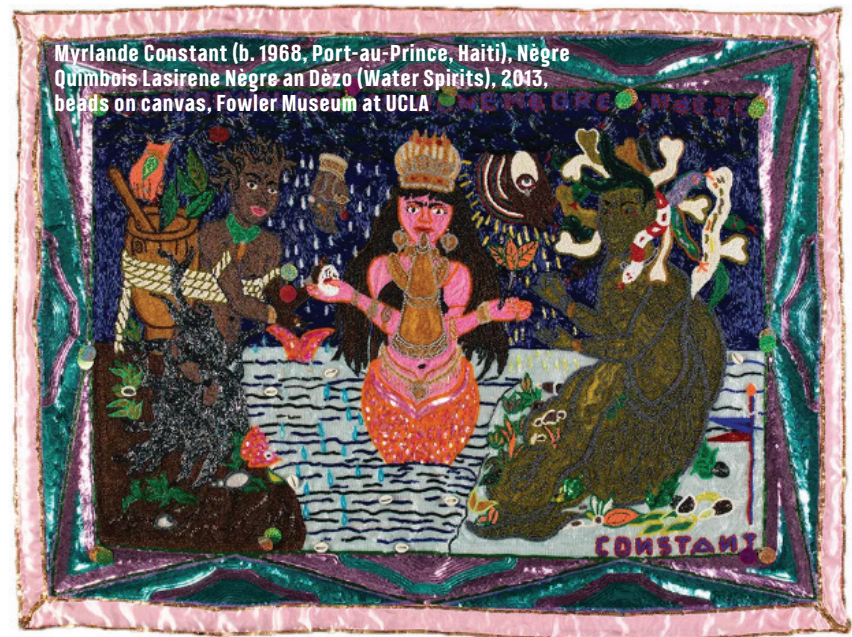
George Condo: People Are Strange at Hauser & Wirth West Hollywood

Hauser & Wirth will inaugurate its second Los Angeles gallery space with a suite of new paintings by George

Condo, an artist known for his visceral, ambivalent, vivisected portraits that balance abstraction with grotesquerie, Cubism with cartoonishness, and emotional purge with elusive theatrics. It's hard to get a read on the pictures as portraits, but it's a spiky delight to follow along as the artist's hand rips them apart and puts them back together all cattywampus and color blind. In a specific reference to a Doors song whose double entendre suits both Condo's enterprise and the enduring appeal of L.A.'s erstwhile counterculture, the series speaks to the universal strangeness of the human race and to the specific strangeness of his paintings of them — and by extension, of the world around us. *8980 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood; Feb. 15 - April 22; hauserwirth.com.*

Refik Anadol: Living Paintings at Jeffrey Deitch

So, one way to paint a picture of say, the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California is to go to the beach or cliffs and paint it. But as legend of AI and dataset art Refik Anadol would like you to know, there's another way to paint California — a way built of pixels and code and a supercomputer, but no less susceptible to its organic marine allure. Imagine that instead of endless hours in the sand and salty air, you fed an algorithm the available environmental data from oceans and nearby national parks like wind speed, temperature and air pressure, and then asked the intelligence to make you an ocean. With data doing the work of pigment, and motion enacted rather than described or captured frozen — with a seductive, plausible life force of perpetual motion



Myrlande Constant (b. 1968, Port-au-Prince, Haiti). *Nègre Quimbois Lasirene Nègre an Dèzo (Water Spirits)*, 2013, beads on canvas, Fowler Museum at UCLA

and a perfectly honed palette that is undeniably aquatic — the fractals and currents in Anadol's oceans are convincing enough to give you seasickness, but never seek to hide their generative origins. *925 N. Orange Dr., Hollywood; Feb. 18 - April 8; deitch.com.*

MARCH

Desert X 2023

Famous for keeping details including artists' names and advance images under wraps until the last minute, nevertheless after three previous editions, audiences have gotten the hang of the Desert X experience by now. Artistic Director Neville Wakefield and 2023 co-curator Diana Campbell have been working to expand on the cyclical project's core themes of land use, indigenous history and cinematic mythology, climate, the journey-as-destination ethos. With an array of large-scale and more intimate interventions, and fleeting occupations of the desert's expanses and town-adjacent edges, and with work that sparks both joy and debate, the ongoing promise of Desert X is to both universalize and deconstruct the experience of this captivating region. Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Coachella Valley locations; March 4 - May 7; desertx.org.

Myrlande Constant: The Work of Radiance at the Fowler Museum

A star in contemporary Haitian art for three decades, Myrlande Constant is having a great year — with a breathtaking turn at this year's Venice Biennale and a smash exhibition at New York gallery Fort Gansevoort, and now, her first solo exhibition at a U.S. museum. Her large-scale, aggressively decorated, hand-beaded textile-based works are

ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? RELATIONSHIP ISSUES?

We are here to help.

Fuller Psychological and Family Services

Receive therapy in person. Or from the comfort and safety of your home with clear video and audio through your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Convenient. Private.
HIPPA-compliant. Affordable.

626.584.5555
fuller.edu/fpfs



The clinic of the Fuller School of Psychology



wonders of both craft and vision, as she employs and enhances a folkloric aesthetic to render narrative episodes from a blurry continuum of mythology and political history, enacting post-colonial, shamanistic critique, while simultaneously provoking exuberant revelry in objects of ritual beauty and scenes of mermaids, sea creatures, prayer, revenge, and power colors. 308 Charles E. Young Dr., Westwood; March 26 - July 16; fowler.ucla.edu.

Rita McBride: Particulates at the Hammer Museum

The Hammer's new bank gallery opens with an installation of lasers, shadows and water that create an illusionistic work of dematerialized sculpture. Both an environment and an object — as well as a meditation on the aesthetic of time travel, the poetics of quantum physics, the principles of Light and Space, and the power of art to create monumental experience with relatively simple materials — gravity, mist and projected light do an architectural dance that focus the eye and engages the mind. Able to be entered during museum hours and visible from Wilshire Blvd at night, Particulates both embraces and transcends its setting in the pursuit of a phenomenological activation. 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; March 26 - Nov. 5; hammer.ucla.edu.

backgrounds is as diverse in material, style, visual and linguistic idiom, lived experience, context, engagement in politics, sexual dynamics, science, struggle, escapism, activism, storytelling, and self-expression as any women — but the constraints placed on their daily lives by oppressively gendered patriarchal structures in global and diaspora contexts is, or ought to be, of universal concern. In particular in light of recent and ongoing events, now is a great time to give them this platform and amplify their voices directly. 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile; April 23 - Sept. 24; lacma.org.

MAY

Keith Haring: Art is for Everybody at The Broad

Somehow this will be the first major Los Angeles museum exhibition dedicated to the game-changing artist Keith Haring, whose energetic and prolific output managed to seamlessly fuse the outrageous joyfulness of wild 1980s street-infused pop with urgent agitation for social justice issues from AIDS to the environment. This exhibition draws on decades of Haring's works from the personal to the public and monumental, activist to educational, murals to merch, to give a well-rounded survey,

APRIL

Women Defining Women In Contemporary Art of the Middle East and Beyond at LACMA

An inherently wide-ranging exhibition surveying contemporary art by women who hail from Muslim countries and cultures, this project promises a radical update to the stereotypes of women Islamic societies as powerless. Far from monolithic, the global community of women artists from these



May Keith Haring, Untitled, 1982. Baked enamel on metal. The Broad Art Foundation. © Keith Haring Foundation



biographical in scope, celebrating his accessible and enduring appeal. In addition to scores of works of art, documentation and ephemera, and an homage to his own anti-capitalist entrepreneurship, the show offers more immersive aspects like the staging of music playlists Haring curated during his life — in the perfect example of a fresh, fulsome look at an artist we think we already know. 221 S. Grand Ave., downtown; May 27 - Oct. 8; thebroad.org. [A]

SQUIRT
.org

We're
Hosting.



10 DAYS
FREE



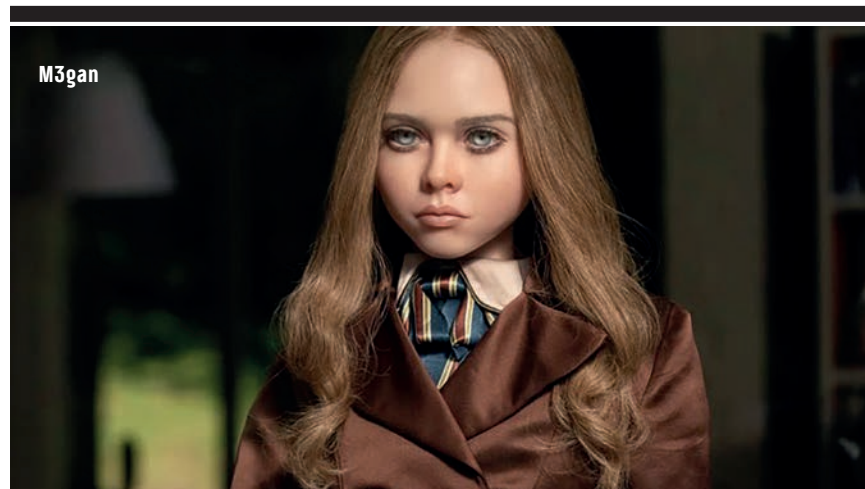
FUN FOR
EVERY NEW GUY

Come Over to Squirt.org and
Join the Action.

JANUARY AIN'T PLAYING

Our Critics Review *M3gan*, *The Pale Blue Eye* and *White Noise*

LA WEEKLY



2023 has already given us some great popcorn films—from a comedic horror ride with a vicious viral sensation (*M3gan*) to a gothic mystery surrounding none other than Edgar Allan Poe (*The Pale Blue Eye*) and to a quirky adaptation of a book previously thought un-filmable (*White Noise*). Here, our critics weigh in each. Happy New Year Movie Lovers!

(These reviews have been edited for print; read the full articles on LAWeekly.com).

M3GAN (in theaters)

More charming than Chucky, cuter than *Annabelle* and just enough crazy to give Tiffany Valentine and Talky Tina a run for their money, *M3GAN* is something special. Directed by Gerard Johnstone (*Housebound*) and penned by Akela Cooper based on a story by producer James Wan of *The Conjuring* films, this movie looks to revitalize the box office during a sleepy January by asking the all-important question: What if HAL 9000 was an American Girl doll who did TikTok dances?

The PG-13 story is simple enough. After her parents are smooched by a snow truck, young Cady (Violet McGraw) goes to live with her career-minded auntie Gemma (Allison Williams), a robotics engineer at a toy company. To win cool points with her grieving niece, she perfects a prototype she's been tinkering with named M3GAN (Model 3 Generative Android), the perfect petrifying playmate for a young girl. Soon the duo become inseparable and M3GAN (played by Amie Donald and voiced by Jenna Davis) becomes attached. Very at-

tached. And really, that's where the fun begins.

A nightmare-inducing AI-conjured antagonist with large, dead eyes that only Margaret Keane could love, the titular figure is captivating, thanks to her unnerving delivery of lines and sunny disposition, which she keeps even as she rips the ears off of preteens and runs on all fours through a forest floor in her cute Macy's ready-to-wear daytime look. She is fun to watch and, as an audience, you want to see what she will do next.

There is no doubt that *M3GAN* will be a hit. She's already a viral sensation thanks to her slick dance moves and a brilliant marketing campaign that started early and strong on social media. There is a message about the dangers of technology and the need for human connection, especially during times of need, and it becomes surprisingly emotional. Williams and McGraw deliver strong performances, even as they compete with four feet of silicon nightmare fuel. (Erin Maxwell)

The Pale Blue Eye (Netflix)

Scott Cooper's *The Pale Blue Eye*, is a grim and gothic journey into pre-Civil War America, a time when the country struggled to discard its European cloak whilst searching for its own identity. It was an unsettled period which sparked the imagination of America's foremost poet of the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. With a classical and serious gaze, Cooper utilizes Poe's legacy and dark persona to unspool a mystery that's both enthralling and saturated

with bleak romance.

Based on the novel by Louis Bayard, the story takes place in the dead of winter, where every building is encrusted with snow and the woods possess a cold and empty resonance. After discovering the victim, the academy's patrician leaders, Superintendent Thayer (Timothy Spall) and Captain Hitchcock (Simon McBurney), hire Augustus Landor (Christian Bale in a pensive and internal performance), a detective who struggles with booze and the mysterious loss of his daughter. With a stringy beard and ravaged top hat, Landor's life consists of sitting in his empty house or taking solitary walks in the forest until it's time to grab a drink at the local tavern where he finds occasional comfort with the barmaid (Charlotte Gainsbourg). If he wasn't tasked with this investigation, he'd probably disappear into the ether.

Landor starts by interrogating the victim's fellow cadets, a small cadre of militant students who seem bound by a secret code. Enter the awkward but intensely erudite cadet, Edgar Allan Poe (Harry Melling). Brooding, sincere, and unexpectedly comedic, Melling's Poe is like the introverted goth kid in high school, albeit a scholarly one that's versed in the classics.

In a story that could've drowned in stylistic sludge due to its whimsical setting (think of Tim Burton's forgettable *Sleepy Hollow*, which pandered to its histrionic imagery instead of the story and characters), Cooper approaches the script, which he wrote, with an austerity that's refreshing. Although Masanobu Takayanagi's cinematography is beyond gorgeous with its cold, leaden landscapes and drippy, dreggy interiors, Cooper never gets drunk on the visuals. Instead, he focuses on the quirks and eccentricities of his characters.

In *The Pale Blue Eye*, the friendship between a budding poet fascinated by darkness and a broken down detective who lives in it, he's able to shine a light in those cracks of the human armor. It's a dark, lurid and weird place where this unexpected gem exists, at times, quite comfortably. (Chad Byrnes)

White Noise (Netflix)

Ambitious and earnest but fitful and awkward, Noah Baumbach's adaptation of Don DeLillo's now classic 1985 novel, *White Noise* has a conflict at its weird heart, and that conflict is between DeLillo and film. Arguably, but not really, no other living major American novelist has such a distinctive stylized voice in terms of dialogue and character — call it High Meta Ironic Alienation In-Joke Idiom. DeLillo's people are always too smart for their own good, and talk to each other around craters of pain and emptiness in metaphor-rich rants — a kind of shared dialect of referential banter, in conversations we can feel they've had many times already, and now

all that's left is to hypercharge what's said, spice it up with strained insights, reach for symbolic gestures, glibly punch for the obscure rather than submit to the mundane.

Reading a book like *White Noise* — easily DeLillo's funniest and most charming novel, though funny and charming are otherwise rare items on the DD menu — is like waking up on a cross-country bus trip to somewhere, and seeing the American madscape clearly for the first time.

Baumbach faithfully holds to the novel's roving idea of itself, although it makes for a curious movie. First, we meet Jack Gladney (Adam Driver), a somewhat self-satisfied academic (the primary scholar at work in Hitler Studies), who basks complacently in his Midwestern-college life and large bustling family (composed of his newest wife, played by Greta Gerwig, and five children from multiple marriages). He and his wife, Babette, both fear death and privately fear surviving each other; otherwise, their life is a pleasant charade of campus ritual, supermarket trips, and family meals scored to the children's precocious debates about disaster, death, and the news.

Ultimately, DeLillo's satire, so potent and echoing on the page, feels forced and even outdated on film, at least partially because it is that: What was freshly bizarre in 1985 is old news to us today, and the film comes off feeling oddly nostalgic for the days when TV commercials seemed to be commenting on our lives all day long, and the Ballard-esque spectacle of televised vehicle crashes was a fresh and disturbing presence in our lives. Even the title is a 20th-century televisual artifact, to which there is no equivalent today.

The dazzling fecundity of supermarkets? The cozy sense of Midwestern academia, with entire departments filled with silly conjectural deconstructionist ideas about pop culture? A book from and about the '80s, or, more accurately, the post-'70s, can be understood as being rooted in the cultural shitstorm of its day, just like a movie from the time. But converting those obsessions into a film 37 years later introduces an unavoidable layer of irrelevance and quaintness. If only we had mere broadcast television to worry about today, and occasional toxic leaks, and marriage secrets.

But say we pretend there is no source novel, and Baumbach's film claims its own thematic farmstead — then what is it? A gentle parable, at best, bristling with an ambiguous interest in the failure of the Reagan Era, and a dread of masculine impugment. It certainly has what many other Baumbach movies have starved for lack of: a rich cataract of stuff, random resonating cultural details, a sense of painting a portrait of an idea about America. However you take it, don't let it steer you away from visiting DeLillo where he really lives, in the book. (Michael Atkinson) . [L]

MUSIC

WALLIE THE SENSEI IS HERE 2 STAY

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



Wallie The Sensei

Compton rapper Wallie the Sensei (WtS) released a new mixtape right as 2022 was coming to an end – it might have flown under the radar with all of the holiday noise but it’s a superb release that should be getting a lot of attention. Tackling real struggles, authentic stories, the man with the (let’s face it) amazing name, has called it *Here 2 Stay*. With a bit of luck, and justice, he will be.

Wallie caught the music bug when he would go to church with his mom and grandma as a kid, taking the position of support-vocal in the gospel group.

“That’s how I learned how to sing and I learned how to rap from doing it as a hobby with my friends,” he says. “We used to sit in a car and freestyle. I really didn’t know how to rap at the time, but I got better over time. This became a weekly routine, and I got better and better. It was just something to do to keep our mind off other things. I attempted to make music in 2010-2015 but

never took it seriously. I wasn’t as good as my friends. At the time I didn’t even drop any of my music, I was just freestyling and jumping on stage. In 2019, it got serious. I started paying DJ’s to perform and I was getting all of this positive feedback from the crowd. They wanted me to do encores and from having that reaction, it made me realize I could really be an artist.”

So that’s what he did. That said, the path wasn’t smooth. WtS endured a period of homelessness from seventh through ninth grade, and again when he reached adulthood.

“As a kid, when you go through that, it opens your eyes to a different world versus having things handed to you,” he says. “My siblings and I were staying at hotels bouncing from place to place. The experience made me grow up early. I took a summer job when I was 14 to help pull my weight. Musically it just made me go harder in everything I do. It also made me feel separated from my ego; I was just hungry for

success trynna make sure I wouldn’t face it again. It made my music more honest, while everybody else wanted the world to believe they’re rich and have no problems. My music doesn’t always talk about celebration, it talks about real problems.”

Wallie describes his sound as something new for the West Coast, both uneasy and melodic.

“It could be buttery or smooth,” he says. “It’s different. My influences are Taj Zaafi, Avant, Charlie Wilson, T Pain, Kendrick Lamar, Lil Wayne, 2Pac, Joey Badass, The

tive based on the fact that the rawest talent doesn’t get found.”

Hopefully, Wallie the Sensei is about to change all that, and *Here 2 Stay* should help. It was recorded in California, and the project lays out his evolution as a musician.

“My last project was me expressing where I was at the moment; I just kinda laid everything out how I was feeling,” he says. “This mixtape mechanically shows how I evolved as an artist. It has me experimenting. My recording process when I dropped my first project took me 2-4 hours per song, but now I can crack out records anywhere between 30 minutes – 1 hour while doing even more. I’m definitely more confident in my sound. Shoutout to Russ, Berler & XL – they recorded me and produced most of the work. Angel produced [the track] ‘Watch Me’ — these people are all musical geniuses in my eyes. Regular sessions with just my family Jay West, Pho Pho and Mari Ruger doin’ what we do best!”

The cover art offers a hint about the project’s themes and concepts – a photo of a young Wallie with his grandma, after church.

“She gave me a lot of confidence as a kid,” he says. “She gave me the courage even when I didn’t want to sing, to make me do it. That helps me even now when I sing in front of crowds. I named the tape *Here 2 Stay* because a lot of the music I hear these days doesn’t last, but I’m just getting started. It’s a statement that even after I’m gone from this earth, my music will still be here. My music is inspiring people that have no hope, gain a sense of not being alone.”

2022 was a year of hard work for Wallie, as he strove to be as great as he can possibly be.

“I took a lot of losses,” he says. “For me it was having the strength to not give up. I lost a lot of friends and I got to the point where I wanted to stop making music, but making music did help me feel better. I gotta keep going for everyone that I lost.”

So looking ahead, and accepting that Wallie the Sensei is indeed *Here 2 Stay*, what does 2023 have in store? He’s optimistic.

“In 2023, I wanna drop the best album our generation has ever heard,” he says. “I need a slot at Rolling Loud. I want a platinum record. I wanna start my own clothing line. And on another note, 2023 is about getting better at receiving my blessings but getting even better at giving back to my community and the kids! I wanna spread my fanbase internationally. I wanna tour in Jamaica and the UK. I wanna get better at painting the picture of who I am. Everything until now was a build-up. I’m just getting started.”

Wallie the Sensei’s Here 2 Stay mixtape is out now. [L]

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Xos seeks Director of Purchasing - Powertrain, CAPEX and Indirect in LA, CA to be responsible for optimizing truck production cost & time. Position requires BS or foreign equivalent in Engineering, Business Administration, Supply Chain or related & 4 yrs exp in job offered or related. 30% international and domestic travel reqd. Salary: \$166,525 to \$200K. Send resume w/ rfrnc # b2jsscgmox to recruit@xostrucks.com

COMPLIANCE MANAGER: New Omni Bank, National Association seeks Compliance Manager for day-to-day monitoring compliance, esp. Anti-Money Laundering compliance practices. Worksite: Arcadia, CA. Salary: \$119,621/year. Email resume to: agnes.tham@newomnibank.com.

Technology Architecture Delivery Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Design, implement, and/or support world-class information technology architecture for Accenture or our clients, spanning simple IT projects to large-scale, enterprise-level change programs. Must have willingness and ability

to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00140595). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is \$136,157.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer - Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

Education Administrator: Master's Degree in Education, Public Administration, or related; 6 months of exp. as Education Administrator, Lecturer, Instructor; Young Wellness, Inc. 219 S. Vermont Ave. Suite C, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Senior Growth Manager, Casino sought by FanDuel Inc in Los Angeles, CA to manage Casino Acquisition Programs for both FanDuel and Stardust subsidiaries. Oversee multi-functional efforts to drive sustainable user acquisition & new customer growth efforts to the Casino vertical while complying w/ anti-addiction protocols. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Business, Marketing or related + 3 yrs exp in job offered or related required.



Lion's Spa
 7 days 9am-9pm
213.915.0382
213.436.8804

Interested candidates send resume by email to johnathan.moersdorf@fanduel.com. Ref job code: H5715-00071 (\$127k to \$130k)

Senior Growth Manager, Casino sought by FanDuel Inc in Los Angeles, CA to manage Casino Acquisition Programs for both FanDuel and Stardust subsidiaries. Oversee multi-functional efforts to drive sustainable user acquisition & new

customer growth efforts to the Casino vertical while complying w/ anti-addiction protocols. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Business, Marketing or related + 3 yrs exp in job offered or related required. Interested candidates send resume by email to johnathan.moersdorf@fanduel.com. Ref job code: H5715-00071 (\$127k to \$130k)



\$\$\$Top Dollar Paid\$\$\$
WANTED HOTWHEELS
1968-1985
COLLECTOR WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR
 (562) 708-9069
acmecollectables.com

Injured at work?
Workers Comp Law Firm
READY TO HELP!

For a **FREE** consultation, please call
310-664-9000 x 101 or text 310-849-5679
 Website : www.workinjuryhelp.com

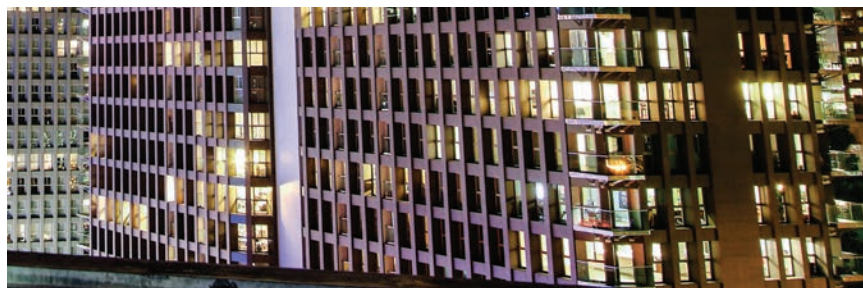
Warning:
 Making a false or fraudulent claim is a felony subject up to 5 years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000 or double the value of the fraud whichever is greater, or by both imprisonment or fine.

Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC

SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

Rio Gentlemen's Club - 13124 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90061 \$18 to \$20 an hour. Outside security needed for patdowns, ID checks and monitoring parking lot of the club. Please contact Dave Carlson at Rmckinney@jjmfirm.com

Goldendoodles Standard. Red Standard Poodles.
First Vaccines and deworming. Excellent therapeutic family dogs. please text or call Lisa 424-227-2646.
Instagram @redpoodlesndoodles





Shawn COLVIN Marc COHN Sarah JAROSZ

together *in* concert

Los Angeles • January 21



323-343-6600
theluckman.org



THE LUCKMAN
FINE ARTS COMPLEX AT CAL STATE LA