

LAW WEEKLY

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OUR HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

SCULPTOR ISABELLE
ALBUQUERQUE EXPLORES
THE MYTHIC METAVERSE

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ALIVE AND KICKING

DEADMAU5 AND KASKADE
BRING THE KX5 PROJECT TO THE COLISEUM
BY BRETT CALLWOOD



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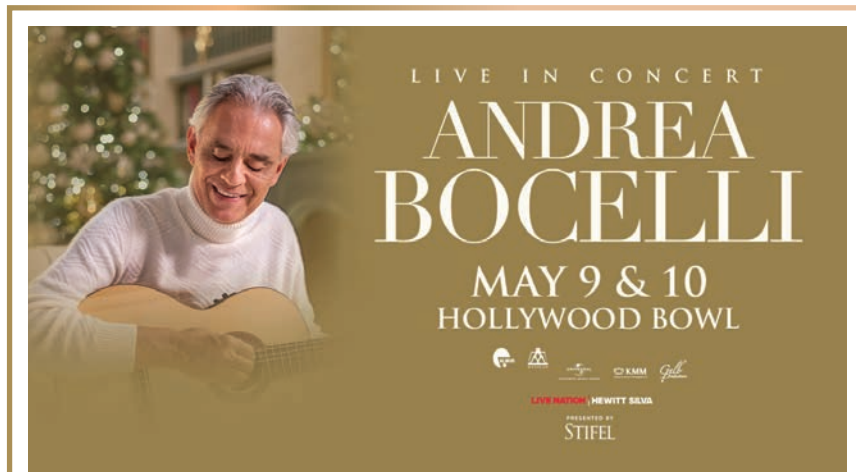
LA WEEKLY HOLIDAY GUIDE

BY LA WEEKLY



It's the most wonderful time of the year! Of all the holiday traditions, nothing beats the joy of giving and receiving gifts from the heart. With so many shopping options popping up in the winter season, finding the perfect gift among a seemingly endless sea of offerings can be overwhelming. To bring the warmth and happiness back to the hunt for the best presents, we've compiled a list of some of our favorite gifts for 2022 – to make shopping easier for you!

Unique or traditional, big or small, affordable or grand – we have something for everyone on your list this year (and maybe a little something extra for you!). For the best gifts for family and friends this holiday season, check out our LA Weekly Holiday Gift Guide 2022:



Andrea Bocelli

Don't miss Andrea Bocelli live! Witness the world's most romantic voice grace the stage of the Hollywood Bowl for two special nights, May 9th and 10th. Tickets are on sale for Andrea Bocelli at the Hollywood Bowl are on sale now. Get yours today.

www.ticketmaster.com/venueartist/90150/773296

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Mushroomfx.com

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Rose Clay & Lavender Goats Milk Soap, from Fablerune.

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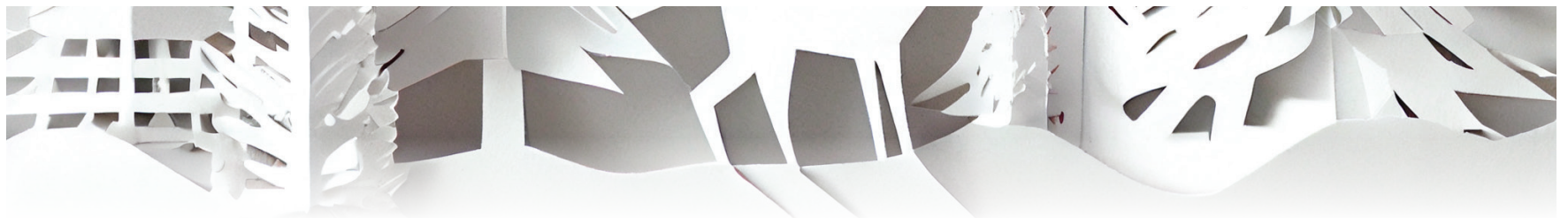
Packs are \$99 (includes shipping)
www.onxwines.com/TLC

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The holiday season is upon us, and there's no better place to celebrate than Santa's Village!

Join us November 17th through January 8th for ice skating, cookie decorating, seasonal entertainment, visits with Santa, and more!

For more information, visit skyparksantasvillage.com

SkyPark at Santa's Village

From now through January 8th, families and adventure-seekers can make their spirits bright at the Santa's Village Christmas celebration at SkyPark. This immersive holiday experience features special activities and active adventures for guests of all ages. Visit with Santa, go ice skating, catch special performances by Wacko the Magician and Kids Imagine Nation, meet the Northwoods characters, see a dazzling display of colors during the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony, decorate toys, and MORE!

www.skyparksantasvillage.com

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maupets.com



American Contemporary Ballet presents The Nutcracker Suite



L.A.'s most magical Nutcracker is back ... and already selling out.

Is there a place to see ice skating 300 feet in the sky? Where you can step inside a secret snow globe? Where you can taste sweets as they dance before you? If there is, it can only exist in dreams... Or can it?

American Contemporary Ballet presents *The Nutcracker Suite* – an immersive holiday ballet for all five senses that delights adults and children alike, transporting the Tchaikovsky classic to a reimagined Land of Sweets high above the city. Once you've entered The Nutcracker Suite, you may not want to go home. Tickets are selling fast; get yours before this snow globe fantasy disappears.

November 25 – December 24, DTLA
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
us.patronbase.com/_ACBDances/Productions/11/Performances

Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder live at Microsoft Theater on Sat, Dec. 17. Tix on sale now!
www.axs.com/events/453243/stevie-wonder-tickets

Wood & Water



Wood & Water is a bistro-style restaurant in Sherman Oaks serving seasonal, modern American fare that has multi-cultural influences and flavors. Featuring the freshest seafood, sustainable protein, and farm-to-fork produce, Wood & Water's attention to detail is unparalleled through the service, cocktails, food and environment.

Location:
 13359 Ventura Blvd
 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
 Hours:
 Nightly 5-10pm
www.woodandwaterla.com

Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square



The hottest place to chill during the holidays, Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square is now open for a new season of outdoor skating and holiday festivities in the heart of downtown L.A. Ice skate outdoors daily through January 1, 2023.

General admission is \$20; prices include skate rental. And don't miss our special DJ Spotlight Nights every Wednesday, presented by Downtown Center BID. Hours and times vary by day. Get information and tickets at holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

Huni Badger



Looking for the perfect stoner gift this holiday season? Say hello to the Huni Badger, a portable, electronic nectar collector that's great for dabbing on the go. Powered by rechargeable 18650 batteries, it heats up in seconds. Toss the torch and get creative by customizing your Huni Badger with a range of colored vinyl wraps and bubbler attachments. It's also backed with great customer service and a 3-year warranty, so you can gift with confidence!

www.hunibadger.com

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Find uniquely sexy gift ideas for that special someone on your list. Whether they're adventurous, romantic, trendy, or elegant their perfect present is waiting at Hustler Hollywood.

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hustlerhollywood.com/pages/store-locator



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Whether you are looking to gift your whole family, your grandparents, your spouse or even celebrate a fluffy family member, Paint Your Life aims to connect generations, bring the family together, and celebrate special moments/memories in art-form, making the most personalized and unique gift you could possibly give this holiday period and beyond. Capture your favorite memory in a portrait forever with a custom painting from Paint Your Life!

www.paintyourlife.com

Snow N Glow



The Ventura County Fairgrounds hosts the Snow N Glow Holiday Festival with holiday lights attractions from 4 to 9 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, Nov. 27 through Dec. 26, and daily Dec. 17-25. Highlights include a walk-thru display of more than 1 million lights, the 100-foot snow tubing hill, live music, fireworks, carousel rides, FREE visits with Santa, and Igloo's reserved for cozying up with hot cocoa. S'mores kits, festive food, and holiday drinks will be sold. Tickets to Snow N Glow start at \$14.99. Admission is free for children ages 2 and younger.

cbfproductions.ticketspice.com/ventura-snow-n-glow-2022



Peter Fetterman Gallery

Peter Fetterman Gallery has one of the largest inventories of classic 20th Century photography in the country particularly in humanist photography. Diverse holdings include work by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Sebastião Salgado, Steve McCurry, Ansel Adams, Paul Caponigro, Willy Ronis, André Kertesz, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Lillian Bassman, Pentti Sammallahti, and Sarah Moon. Peter and his colleagues are committed to promoting the awareness and appreciation of the most powerful of the mediums in a user-friendly salon environment.

www.peterfetterman.com

Julefest



Julefest returns for a month-long holiday celebration for the village of Solvang beginning November 26, 2022 and running through January 6, 2023.

This holiday celebration harkens back to a simpler time and holiday memories of days gone by. Visiting the quaint village of Solvang during Julefest is a walk through a vintage postcard and a Hall-mark movie at the same time.

Visit SolvangJulefest.org for a full schedule of events.



Perfect Circuit



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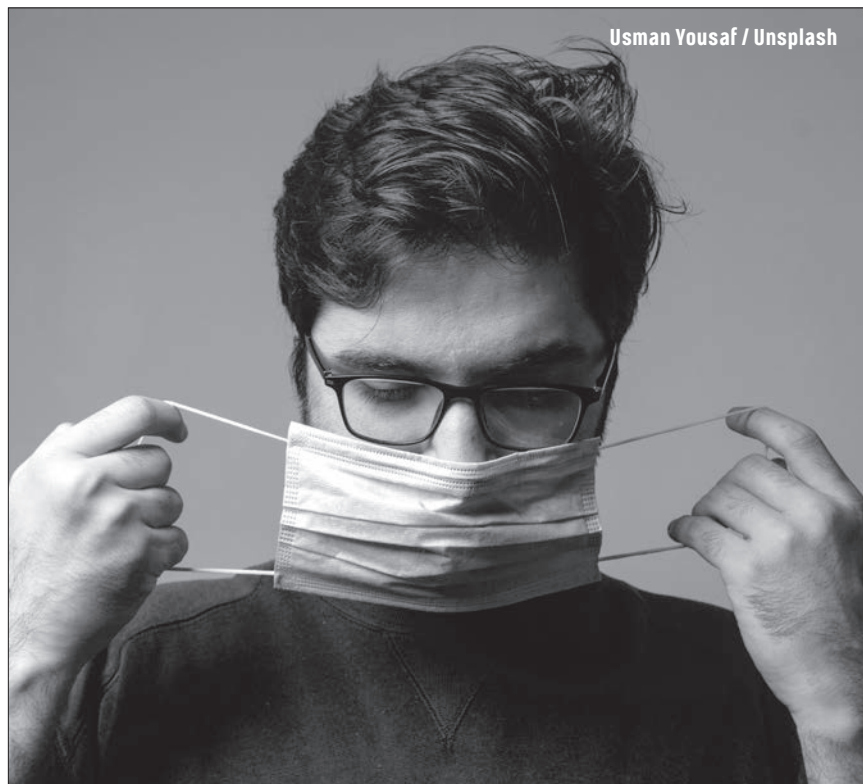
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PUBLIC HEALTH HIGHLY RECOMMENDS MASKING INDOORS AS COVID CASES RISE

With new COVID-19 subvariants spreading through the country and cases rising in Los Angeles, public health officials are urging Angelenos to mask up again.

BY ISAI ROCHA



Los Angeles County Public Health has highly recommended that masks be worn at indoor public places, as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have climbed going into the holidays.

In addition to the increase in COVID-19 cases, L.A. Public Health acknowledged that the winter months are bringing an increase in other respiratory infections, such as respiratory syncytial

virus (RSV) and the flu.

“Los Angeles County is reporting rising cases of COVID-19, increased circulation of new Omicron strains, and high transmission of other respiratory illnesses including the flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV,” Public Health wrote in a press release. “Indoor masking in all indoor public spaces is now highly recommended, in accordance with the LA County COVID Response Plan.”

The mask recommendation is not a mandate, as was the case the last couple of years, but Public Health is asking for Angelenos to wear them at indoor spaces such as schools, retail establishments, entertainment venues, public transit, correctional and detention facilities, and at homeless shelters.

L.A. Public Health has expressed worry, as the COVID-19 case rate has surpassed 100 positive cases per 100,000 residents, a stat that does not account for an undercount due to at-home tests not being reported.

As the holiday season continues, public health officials also recommend masking while traveling and testing for COVID-19 before family gatherings.

Through Thanksgiving weekend, 5,414 new COVID-19 cases were reported, with newer subvariants of Omicron, BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, showing up more frequently in sequenced specimens.

“Throughout the pandemic there has been mounting evidence that wearing a mask is an effective way to limit the spread of respiratory viruses,” Public Health said. “With the current case rate of 100 cases per 100,000 individuals, at a 200-person event the probability that at least one person at the event is infected with COVID-19 is 45% to 60%. If the case rate continues to increase and reaches 150 cases per 100,000 individuals, this probability jumps to 60% to 75%.”

On a federal level, Dr. Anthony Fauci gave a final plea for Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19, as he will retire from his advisor positions for the White House in December.

“Are the vaccines safe... clearly, an extensive body of information clearly indicates that they’re safe,” Fauci said in his final White House briefing. “... we know it’s safe. We know that it is effective. So, my message and my final message — may be the final message I give you from this podium — is that: Please, for your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated COVID-19 shot as soon as you’re eligible to protect yourself, your family, and your community.”

NEWSOM SAYS HE WILL NOT RUN AGAINST BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT IN 2024

California Governor Gavin Newsom explicitly said he would not run for U.S. president in 2024 and would give his full support to President Joe Biden.

In an exclusive interview with online news publication Politico, Newsom for the first time addressed the rumors that he would enter the race for president.

Newsom said he “told everyone in the White House, from the chief of staff to the first lady,” that he had no intention of putting his hat in the race.

During the only gubernatorial debate Newsom held during his midterm bid

for reelection, opponent Brian Dahle accused the governor of having his focus on a presidential run and not California. Multiple times during the debate, Senator Dahle said Newsom cared more about federal issues that he did local ones and would leave California mid-term, as he did San Francisco when he left his post as mayor to run for governor.

The governor shrugged off the rumors then, but finally addressed them this week, saying he told President Biden he’s “all in” for the 80-year-old commander-in-chief’s coming run for reelection.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS PAUSED UNTIL JUNE 2023

President Joe Biden announced that the pause on federal student loan payments may continue into June of 2023 as the White House fights to continue its student loan forgiveness plan.

The pause first started in March of 2020, to aid students who were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Biden’s loan forgiveness plan was struck down by a federal judge in Texas on Nov. 10, causing the White House to challenge the decision in the 5th circuit.

“I’m confident that our student debt relief plan is legal, but it’s on hold because Republican officials want to block it,” Biden said through a video posted on social media platforms. “It isn’t fair to ask tens of millions of borrowers eligible for relief to resume their student debt payments while the courts consider the lawsuit.”

Biden said the pause would coincide with giving the Supreme Court enough time to make its decision on the debt forgiveness plan.

The pause will continue up to 60 days after the student loan forgiveness lawsuit is resolved, but if it is not resolved by June 2023, the moratorium will extend by another 60 days.

When striking down Biden’s student loan plan, Judge Mark T. Pittman called the student loan forgiveness program “unconstitutional,” and in a 26-page decision, concluded that the 2003 HEROES Act did not provide “clear congressional authorization for the Program proposed by the Secretary.”

“In this country, we are not ruled by an all-powerful executive with a pen and a phone,” Pittman said in his conclusion. “Instead, we are ruled by a Constitution that provides for three distinct and independent branches of government.”

The Biden administration said the department of education would keep the information of the 26 million students who already filed for the debt forgiveness, as well as the 16 million who were already approved, in order to “process their relief once we prevail in court.”

Kaskade and deadmau5



PHOTO BY LEAH SEMS

MUSIC

ALIVE AND KICKING

deadmau5 and Kaskade bring the KX5 project to the Coliseum

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

For about a decade and a half, masked producer and DJ deadmau5, aka Joel Zimmerman, and equally revered electronic music artist Kaskade, aka Ryan Raddon, have been forging a thrilling, fascinating partnership. Both, of course, have celebrated careers in their own right, but their on-again, off-again collaborative relationship has proven to be extremely fruitful every time it's on-again.

It was 2008 that the pair released the "I Remember" single, under the simple

and accurate name deadmau5 & Kaskade. This time, they've formalized the project name as KX5. That makes sense; they keep working their way back to each other since "I Remember." They remember it well. Kaskade was drawn in by a 2006 deadmau5 track.

"I've got two things I remember," says Kaskade. "'Faxing Berlin' — 'when I heard this, it was like one of those moments where I was like, what's happening in this song? It was an amazing song. He'd been putting stuff out, but 'Faxing

Berlin' did well on Beatport. A big song. I still listen to it to this day. Awesome tune. I hit Joel up. Up to that point, he was mainly doing just instrumental stuff and I was doing a ton of songwriting. I had written a song just over one of his instrumentals, just screwing around. I sent that to him and said 'hey dude, have you ever thought about doing vocal stuff,' and he was like, 'yeah, what, huh?' I sent him that, and he's like 'this is pretty cool.' Then it was off to the races after that."

The track sticks out in deadmau5's mind, too, because it was one of the first of his tracks to feature a vocal.

"I was never really a fan of vocals, until Ryan kinda got it over to Haley [Gibby] and wrote it, and she sang it and it sounded great," deadmau5 says. "I'm not like Simon Cowell up here listening to voices going, 'you need to do this and the tone needs to sound like this.' I don't know, I've been trying to avoid listening to radio for that reason, just because it's always overprocessed or tuned, whether

it's for effect or lack of singing abilities. So I never really honed in on who's a good singer and who's not. I focused more on the message and the voice was not really processed outside of the standard processing that you do with a vocal."

That British vocalist, Haley Gibby, had worked a few times with Kaskade back then, but she was new to deadmau5, who confesses that to this day he's never met her. Amusingly enough, the recent KX5 single, "Escape," features vocals by another Brit, this time named Hayla.

"We found her through a colleague of my managers, who was kinda working with her on some stuff," says deadmau5. "I think I was sent some tidbits of her stuff, which was a lot different to how 'Escape' turned out. But it was the same vocal, just different melodic structure and all that stuff. Then I thought 'wow, if I could just get the vocal with that I could rewrite the music.' I did that and I really liked her voice. She's got pipes, she can sing. Let's turn this into something — she knows what she's doing. Then I think

I basically threw the track over to Ryan with the new melody and her vocal, and just had maybe one or two passes back and forth over little 'bells and whistle' things. That's that."

It certainly worked out, and the song further cemented the KX5 project as something that stands alone from their individual work.

"We figured we would continue making 3, 4, 5, who knows how many more songs together," says deadmau5. "He's become such a recurring collaborator in my world that it only made sense to kinda brand it as that. We're working on a lot of unique stage production for the events that me and Ryan are doing, our KX5 thing, so it just warrants its own music identity."

Despite the quality and quantity of the work that the two men have done together, they say that they rarely sit in a studio together throughout the process. Geography and workload means that they bounce ideas across the country.

"A lot of ideas that Ryan sent over to me are just some audio engineering tricks and tweaks away from being completed," says deadmau5. "Same with some of my tracks. I just go back and find ones that fit that niche. In the history of all the stuff we've done together, we've never actually sat down and gone through the process together in a studio, where it's literally hours and hours and hours of just staring at screens, playing with plug-ins – we've never endured that with each other. We're both grown-ass adults."

"We're on the other side of the continent and we actually have lives," adds Kaskade. "So it's much easier to toss ideas back and forth to one another."

Following "Escape" and then the "Take Me High" single came "Alive," a collaboration between KX5 and indie band The Moth & The Flame.

"I've known those guys for a while," says Kaskade. "I've done a couple of songs with them. This is my third or fourth time working with them. Great songwriters, cool band. I really like indie rock stuff. In another lifetime, maybe I'll come back and do that. So I reached out to them like, 'Hey, I'm working on this thing with Joel, let's do another song.'"

Having dropped a bunch of singles this year, there's an album on the way, which deadmau5 says is basically done. The arrival date is still up in the air – these two artists just make the music.

"I don't know about Ryan, but I just pump out the music and then I'm like, 'Yo management, here's a bunch of shit. Do what you will. Here, label – do the thing,'" says deadmau5. "So I don't have any ideas about how that's packaged and distributed. When, how and where."

"I definitely don't know about that,"

agrees Kaskade. "I give them the stuff and then sometimes I call them later and say, 'What's happening with that? I've been playing this one song at a show and people are mad that it's not out.'"

On Dec. 10, KX5 performs at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum, and deadmau5 says that we'll be hearing some of those unreleased album tracks that night.

"We're gonna pipe in as much as we can because two hours is a long time to fill up," he says. "Especially when you only have about 30 minutes of music collectively. So still to do on our list is to get together and kind of figure out the flow of the show. On my end, I have to figure out the technology and event production. We're just getting ready for that. It's a lot of compartmentalization in putting together an event like this, where you have your artist coming up with the performance and technical specs, delivery, and then you have stage design, and I'm very meticulous about my stage design. How it works, looks and runs, what technology powers it and all that stuff, too. So that's a whole other event delegation from my end. But that's kinda where we're at."

There also will be deadmau5 material and Kaskade material in the set, to fill it out.

"Oh, we're definitely going to mix in our own respective stuff, as well as maybe some other stuff we just like that fit really nice in there," says deadmau5. "That's TBD. I'm treating this, at least from my end, like a deadmau5 show where it's not so much two DJs vibing out. Are you gonna play 'Give Me a Man After Midnight,' or should I? It's not going to be like that. So we have to sit down and storyboard it, basically."


As far as future plans go, there's not a lot to report. deadmau5 prefers to plan just a couple of weeks ahead.

"Spoken like a true bachelor," says Kaskade with a laugh. "I only want to be three or four days out, but I've got all these other people in my life that demand more. Women and children."

"I don't know how he does it, to be honest," adds deadmau5. "I'll never figure it out. Back when I was young, people would say 'You're gonna change your mind in your 30s.' Dude, I'm 41 and I'm sold on this. Maybe the marriage thing, whatever. But kids? Having to section my life to do things that detract from the things I want to do is crazy to me."

Fortunately, deadmau5 and Kaskade find a way to make it work, regardless of their different family situations and locations. Not only that, but it works remarkably well.

See for yourself at the Coliseum.

KX5 performs at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 at the Los Angeles Coliseum. 

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ART

SCULPTOR ISABELLE ALBUQUERQUE: TEN PEOPLE, ONE BODY, EVERYTHING

The multiplatform artist explores the mythic corporeal metaverse

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy For Ten People In One Body
 at Jeffrey Deitch (New York)
 Installation photographs by
 Genevieve Hanson




In an arresting series of 10 nearly life-size sculptures, Isabelle Albuquerque uses her own body as a prototype, manifesting versions of herself across multiple forms and materials — generating headless female figures in wood, bronze, marble, wax, and fur, arranged on plinths, pedestals, and plush pads, and provocatively posed with props like candles, a well-placed saxophone, and even a baby grand. On view at Jeffrey Deitch in New York City, Albuquerque's *Orgy For Ten People In One Body* represents the completed project of which Los Angeles audiences got a mid-point preview at the September 2020 exhibition *Sextet* at Nicodim Gallery, which featured six sculptures from what would become the full suite.

Within the series, female figures are presented without heads — an aesthetic gesture that could in other contexts be rather frightening, but in this instance records a sly pun on fashion mannequins and tropes of art history, sexual mystique and arcane ritual. While this choice seems to obscure individual identity within the pieces, remember that they are all self-portraits of the artist, all conceived and presented as facets of her identity, memory, experience, emotions, dreams, and the myths and fables that influenced those things in her life. As symbolic facets of herself, the narration is a meta story of poetic vignettes, a mosaic of traits and poetic snippets that are very much the parts of a whole. Among the sculptures are a speckled hooved faun,



in birthing is a witty and worthy metaphor for a lot of things — the creative process, a venerated yet relegated source of voice and power — and is suitably both fun and discomfiting to look at. Another birthing/motherhood image involves teddy bears, the softest, sweetest little succubi. One of the work's most special powers is the ability — like its author herself — to be and to contain many things, multitudes of contradictory things, all at once, all in one body and all in one consciousness — specifically, a female body, and an artist's singular mind.

Albuquerque is the daughter of Lita Albuquerque, the granddaughter of Ferida "Fred" Albuquerque, and the great-granddaughter of Smarda the Jewel — a matriarchal lineage of artists from North Africa that also includes her sister Jasmine, an acclaimed dancer and choreographer herself. Isabelle, too, has a background in dance and movement; she is member of the Los Angeles performance group *Hecuba*, which she founded with her longtime partner Jon Ray. Albuquerque and Ray are also founders of *Osk*, a studio that develops artificial intelligence to "create and look at art and individual experience through hybrid human and nonhuman perspectives." All of these interrelated pathways from feminism to futurism, humanism and whatever is next, merge together in this project, creating a rich fusion of deeply personal, somatic narratives enacted through the artist's own body, enhanced and interpreted through the agencies of fascinating robotic and code-based technologies, and expressed again in sculptures of eerie allure, assertive sexual power, fantastical imagination, and undeniable material presence.

Isabelle Albuquerque: *Orgy For Ten People In One Body* is on view at 18 Wooster St., until Jan. 14; deitch.com. 

a vaginal musician, the ecstasy burning in the fleeting light of a candle, the eternal silence of bronze, the seductive tactility of wood grain, the purity of alabaster, the resilient dark strength of rubber — all speaking to the constant push and pull of invitation and resistance at the core of the female experience.

At certain moments the sculptures are whimsical, like the svelte wolflike figure delicately draped across the piano like a gentle lupine lounge singer. At others, like the bound hands of one figure or the Renaissance-inflected tomblike pose of another, the tone turns somber or political. The ultra-reflective high-gloss metal one with the saxophone emerging from a reclining figure's nether regions as though

CANNABIS

DECEMBER IS A GREAT MONTH FOR CANNABIS

Here is our take on why December is one of the best months of the year to purchase the heat

BY JIMI DEVINE



Many argue that November is one of the best months to buy pot given the deals and steals of Black Friday and Green Wednesday, but don't sleep on the quality available and prices when purchasing your weed in December.

One of the main feathers in the hype for December is the fact it's just a little bit further out from the CROPTOBER harvest. The first half of November you might still be waiting for the girls that finished late to cure up to perfection. That's not a problem in December, in fact, the whole month much of the year's harvest will be in the golden zone for quality.

And we'll be the first to note there are a lot of variables on how long that golden zone lasts. The best hope is the pot never leaves an awesome environment before it ends up in the hands of a consumer, but

that's few and far between. That's why the date is so important.

The accountability of shelf time says a lot in the current market. Dispensaries don't want flowers that don't move. They want you to get the heat, apart from a charlatan or three trying to make a quick buck. But even then, that harvest date can transcend shady retail practices that make you think you're getting a deal when, in reality, the consumer is doing them a favor by taking it off their hands for anything.

This has led to the best cultivators in the world living by their packaging dates — that's the moment the clock really starts ticking. Especially given in how many cases the weed was already finished for a bit before it made it to bags or jars.

"We put our harvest date and our package date, because after 90 days from the



package date, your product is aging and will not hold all the attributes we look for in top-shelf cannabis," CAM founder Anna Willey told L.A. Weekly.

Willey went on to note the biggest things impacted are the smell, how the buds break up and moisture content.

As for the biggest factors Willey sees outside not hitting the gold standards in temperature and humidity?

"The way it was dried and the evenness of your environment in the dry room," Willey answered. "Also the health of the plant at the end of the cycle and the trim

time."

While Willey is an indoor cultivator, this all rings true for the outdoor that dropped a couple of months ago.

Another proving point to the quality of cannabis in December is the Emerald Cup's old format before the move to Los Angeles for the award show. Back in the day, we knew who the world champs were a couple of weeks into December.

The new extended format creates a bit more hype over many months but adds the additional factor of which weed actually holds up through that time. [A]

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