

# ARTFUL EXPERIENCES

GET YOUR FIX OF CREATIVITY WITH THESE THOUGHTFUL EXHIBITIONS, WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE AT MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES THIS SUMMER.

BY ASHLEY RYAN

After a year spent in isolation, with restaurant dining rooms, movie theater auditoriums, concert venues, ballparks and museums sitting empty, this summer is the perfect time to get out and explore all that Los Angeles has to offer.

While there are a number of ways to enjoy the rich cultural scene, including historic concert venues and stages scattered across the city, it's museum galleries where local art really shines. And with a variety of exhibitions and collections to view, you're sure to find plenty to keep you busy all summer long.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA)

Fondly known as LACMA, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art remains one of the most popular museums in the region and the largest in the western U.S. Covering a wide range of cultures and histories, the museum presents a variety of mediums, artists and subjects in unique exhibits. Through Sept. 12, view “View From Here: Recent Acquisitions,” which features 16 newly acquired pieces that explore global perspectives on things like isolation, vastness and movement. Also on display through mid-September is “Vera Lutter: Museum in the Camera,” which contains images taken with room-sized camera obscuras during the New York artist's two-year residency at LACMA. For another experimental showcase, visit “Give It or Leave It” before Halloween, where local artist Cauleen Smith has created videos and installations based on the notions of imagination and spirituality. Since 2008, the “Urban Light” installation, featuring more than 200 antique street lamps, has also been a popular piece of contemporary art, located in LACMA's front plaza.



*The “Urban Light” installation at LACMA*



*The Broad's veil and vault building, which houses its exhibitions and stored collection.*

## THE BROAD

Ever since its opening in 2015, The Broad has been the hot-ticket museum in LA, showcasing contemporary art in a unique “veil and vault” structure, which contains public exhibition space atop storage for the venue's collection. Although Yayoi Kusama's famed Infinity Mirrored Rooms are currently closed, there are numerous other exhibits on display this summer. The main attraction is “Invisible Sun,” which runs through early October with nearly 60 pieces from The Broad's permanent collection. The show draws its name from an abstract painting by Julie Mehretu, who will be featured alongside sculptor Alexander Calder, portrait artist Nathaniel Mary Quinn, photographer Cindy Sherman and more, and focuses on periods of unrest with artwork inspired by everything from capitalism and colonialism to race violence and the AIDS crisis. In addition, The Broad is home to many featured installations, with expansive presentations showcasing the works of Jean-Michel Basquiat, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Kara Walker and more.



*The Butterfly Pavilion offers a glimpse at more than 30 species of butterflies.*

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Pay for admission at the Natural History Museum before Oct. 10 and you'll be able to visit the special “Rise Up L.A.: A Century of Votes for Women” exhibit, which takes a look back at the history and politics involved in the fight for women's suffrage that culminated in the early 1900s. Visitors can also learn about the continued efforts to achieve female equality and representation in Southern California since then. Elsewhere, the seasonal Butterfly Pavilion remains open through Sept. 6, serving as a home to native plants and over 30 species of butterflies, including California varieties like the mourning cloak and the common buckeye. Additionally, “Spiky, Hairy, Shiny: Insects of L.A.” runs into next year, with a collection of large-format photographs, audio clips and plenty of information about the museum's BioSCAN project. Digital versions of these exhibits are also available on the museum's website.

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*The “Ai Weiwei: Trace” exhibition features more than 80 portraits of worldwide activists.*

## SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

Deemed a Jewish cultural institution with an emphasis on American values and equality, the Skirball Cultural Center presents shows that celebrate discovery and foster human connection and understanding. Through Aug. 1, visitors can check out “Ai Weiwei: Trace,” which focuses on advocates and activists around the world. The Chinese artist has delved into mediums such as photography, film, sculpture, painting, architecture and more to explore human rights, but this exhibition features 83 Lego portraits that pay homage to those standing up for justice in small communities. The wallpaper in the exhibit—also an art piece, titled “The Animal That Looks Like a Llama but Is Really an Alpaca”—features icons representing both freedom and oppression. This fall, the museum will also present the immersive “Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds,” complete with set pieces, costumes, scripts and more from the beloved series. Earlier this spring, the museum also appointed a new director, Sheri Bernstein, who previously served as vice president and director of education and visitor experience.



*The Hammer Museum is one of two venues showcasing “Made in L.A. 2020: a version.”*

## HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum at UCLA strives to show the world in a new light and inspire change, goals that align perfectly with its current exhibit. “Made in L.A. 2020: a version” runs through Aug. 1, the fifth iteration of a partnership between the museum and The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, where the presentation is also being displayed. Although the exhibitions take place at the same time, the artwork is different, with unique versions of each piece (intended to be two parts of a whole) hung at the two venues. Thirty artists from the Los Angeles area are represented in the show, with art ranging from paintings and sculptures to installations, films and performances—many of which were created just for this event. Visitors can vote on who will receive the \$25,000 Public Recognition Award, and will gain free admission to The Huntington to view the complementary pieces.

BRENTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB MAGAZINE 45

OPPOSITE PAGE: DARREN TIERNEY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KAPLING/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; ROBERT WEDEMEYER; ALEX MILLAUER/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; GINA CHOU/GETTY IMAGES; THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY





In addition to an impressive collection of European art, the Getty Center offers picturesque gardens, unparalleled views and more.

## GETTY CENTER

Boasting European art, modern architectural design, tranquil nature areas, locally sourced dining and sprawling views of the Los Angeles skyline, the Getty Center is unlike any other museum in the region—and it’s right here in Brentwood. Before the three-month “Power, Justice, and Tyranny in the Middle Ages” exhibit comes to a close on Aug. 15, stop by to learn about medieval power structures and the struggles people faced when trying to achieve noble status. Another exciting showcase, on view through Sept. 12, is titled “Artists as Collectors,” which reveals how European painters like Edgar Degas and Giorgio Vasari collected drawings from master artists like Rembrandt and Raphael. Also not to miss is “Photo Flux: Unshuttering LA,” a display of photographs from 35 locals who use their work to amplify social issues ranging from representation and diversity to beauty standards and the importance of retaining culture. View it through Oct. 10.



The impressive Getty Villa Museum was modeled after an Italian country home.

## GETTY VILLA MUSEUM

Less like a museum and more like a time machine, the Getty Villa Museum immerses visitors in the ancient world with everything from its Greek and Roman antiquities to its structure (a re-creation of a classical Italian country home). Set above the ocean in Pacific Palisades, this venue definitely feels like a piece of history. There are two current exhibitions to note: “Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins,” ending Aug. 16, and “Assyria: Palace Art of Ancient Iraq,” running until Sept. 5. The former features artwork from the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians spanning three millennia, from the creation of cities around 3200 B.C. to when Alexander the Great conquered Babylon in 331 B.C. The other exhibit, most of which is on loan from The British Museum in London, features relief sculptures that adorned the palaces of Assyrian kings from the ninth to seventh centuries B.C. These served as status symbols, art pieces and depictions of court life.



“Tomoshibi: Glass Works by Kazuki Takizawa,” one of the exhibits at Craft Contemporary

## CRAFT CONTEMPORARY

Anyone who loves to make their own DIY projects at home will appreciate a visit to Craft Contemporary, where exhibits explore how crafting can “educate, captivate, provoke and empower.” With three shows on display through Sept. 12, a summertime trip will ensure you see it all, including “Tomoshibi: Glass Works by Kazuki Takizawa,” where the artist explores duality in the glass as a metaphor for mental illness, using light and shadow to change the look of his vessels. Also on display is “Cathy Cooper: Dramatis Personae,” where Cooper explores the energy in materials with her pieces that resemble both costumes and sculptures. Finally, “Making Time” showcases artwork from various LA-based artists who have exhibited at Craft Contemporary over the last 10 years, with reflection on how they have impacted the museum’s development. Those featured include Katherine Gray, Tanya Aguiñiga, Timothy Washington and more.

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MOCA Grand Avenue (pictured) is now open while its sister property opens in the fall.

## MOCA GRAND AVENUE

As the only artist-founded museum in LA, MOCA Grand Avenue offers an intimate take on modern art. One of the museum’s two branches, Grand Avenue has reopened first, offering some stellar exhibits this summer. Now through early 2022, view “Jennifer Packer: Every Shut Eye Ain’t Sleep,” where the New York-based figurative painter who uses allegorical portraits and floral still lifes to represent both intimacy and loss. In addition, “Making Space: Recent Photography Acquisitions” is also showing, with a number of newly obtained images that have been added to the already renowned collection. These acquisitions include photographs by Wolfgang Tillmans, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Senga Nengudi and more. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA will reopen in September with “Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor,” with a glimpse at more than 30 years of work.



“Bacchanal with Young Goat and Onlooker,” a rare linocut by Pablo Picasso

## NORTON SIMON MUSEUM

Located in Pasadena, this fine art museum has a storied past, originally founded as the Pasadena Art Institute in 1922. Since then, there have been some changes, but the Norton Simon still holds true to its original goal: to demonstrate the richness of art. Through Aug. 2, view “Beyond the World We Know: Abstraction in Photography,” which contains work from 16 artists who blur the line of realism with their unique images. In addition, visitors can view famed 1888 painting “The Swineherd” by Paul Gauguin, which is on loan from LACMA right now at the museum. Then, beginning Sept. 3, “Unseen Picasso” is sure to be popular, as the museum showcases prints created by the eccentric artist during his career—many of which the public has not seen before. These pieces focus on discovery over technique, as he rethought conventional procedures for creating etchings, lithographs and linocuts.

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Outfits worn by The Jackson 5, part of the “Motown: The Sound Of Young America” exhibit

## GRAMMY MUSEUM

For something a little different, head to L.A. Live, home of the Grammy Museum. Three different displays offer history and insight on varied musical artists. First up, through the summer and into fall, “Dave Matthews Band: Inside and Out” explores the 30-year history of the rock band, complete with instruments, handwritten lyrics, tour posters and more. To spice things up with some Latin flavor, check out “Y Para Siempre... Marco Antonio Solís,” which details the career of one of Mexico’s most successful artists along with displays of his wardrobe pieces, awards he has won and more. For an exhibit that is more genre-focused than artist, “Motown: The Sound Of Young America” runs through the end of the year, offering a glimpse at the record label that inspired the genre as well as the most famous Motown artists and their accomplishments, special artifacts and more.



Learn about the people from the American West via their own stories at the Autry Museum.

## AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Dedicated to telling the stories of people from the American West, this Griffith Park museum offers two poignant displays this summer. In “What’s Her Story: Women in the Archives,” which runs through late August, female narratives were pulled from the archives to highlight the fight for the right to vote, revealed through things like photographs, diary entries, trinkets, music, letters and more. Then, on view until Nov. 14, the second exhibition “When I Remember I See Red: American Indian Art and Activism in California” offers a look at Native American artwork that has messages of “resistance and renewal.” Overall, the aim of the show is to present aspects of traditional Native American life that have been in danger of disappearing over the years and to stress the importance of things like dancing, language and ceremonial practices within the culture.