

Style

Art



Art That Looks at L.A.: 'Full of Substance and Surface'

As Frieze and four other fairs open around the city, *THR* showcases four artists whose focus on Los Angeles and its 'sunshine and noir' landscape has Hollywood collectors taking notice *By Degen Pener*



Clockwise from top: Rendering of Refik Anadol's 40-foot by 15-foot digital work *Artificial Realities: California Landscapes*, at Jeffrey Deitch Los Angeles through April 29; Jessica Taylor Bellamy's *Warm Light* (2023), part of her exhibit at Anat Ebgi Gallery; Chase Hall's coffee- and acrylic painting *Seas the Day* (2022), on view at David Kordansky's booth during Frieze Los Angeles.

February is L.A.'s busiest art month, with no less than five fairs kicking off around the city. Among them, Frieze Los Angeles, owned by Endeavor, returns in a new and larger location at Santa Monica Airport (see guide on page 32). As the fairs open, *THR* catches up with four buzzy artists, all with new shows right now that explore the topography of Los Angeles.

Refik Anadol

Just days after his AI-based art was shown on screens surrounding the stage of the 2023 Grammys, artist and computer programmer Anadol opened a mesmerizing solo show, *Living Paintings*, at Jeffrey Deitch. The exhibit showcases the Istanbul-born artist's large-scale LED-screen video works that harness millions of images and



Anadol



Nguyen

data points, transforming them into seemingly fluid cascades of imagery. The pieces include the work *Artificial Realities: California Landscapes*, generated from 300 million photos of national parks in the Golden State. "We create our AI on this data and our AI will be dreaming those landscapes. I'm calling it a 'thinking brush,'" says Anadol, whose 15-person studio is in L.A.'s Frogtown neighborhood. The artist tells *THR* that next year he plans to open an artificial-reality museum, Dataland, in DTLA. "I love L.A.," he says. "It has innovation in the core."

WHERE 925 N. Orange Drive, through April 29

WHO COLLECTS Anadol's work is in the collection of CAA, which represents him. His agent, **Thao Nguyen**, who is also the CEO of live-event company Constellation

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Friedrich Kunath's *Cars & Coffee Los Angeles* (2022), on view through Feb. 25 at L.A.'s Blum & Poe gallery.

out West, and the places that provided solace while he battled waves of microaggressions and othering — namely, the beach and the outdoor activities that make up Southern California's horizon line. "I think often-times the ideas of identity [or] intersectionality become a bit banal, or lost in these polarizing narratives that we're often interested in," says Hall. "[I'm] just trying to take that step a bit further into my own realm of nuance."

WHERE At *Frieze Los Angeles*, through Feb. 19

WHO COLLECTS Among Hall's collectors is SpringHill Company CEO **Maverick Carter**, who tells *THR*, "From the first time I saw his paintings, I was drawn to how he depicted Black people in a way most don't see us." —EVAN NICOLE BROWN

Friedrich Kunath

In his beautiful yet melancholic landscape paintings — inspired by the German Romantic period and paintings of the American West — Kunath looks at the ideas of home and belonging. Born in the mid-1970s in East Germany, the artist moved to Los Angeles in 2007. "A big part of the concept of the show is my quest of finding home again and just realizing



Hall



Carter



Kunath



Whitesell

that it isn't there anymore," says Kunath, who splits his time between Europe and Pasadena. "In a spiritual sense I don't feel home in one place, and I realized early on that that is the engine of my work, this forever quest to define home." Among the pieces in his new show, *I Don't Know the Place but I Know How to Get There*, at Blum & Poe is the clever *Cars & Coffee Los Angeles*, which depicts L.A.'s car meet-up culture amid the landscape seen in **Albert Bierstadt's** famed 1864 painting *Valley of the Yosemite*. "I go to these [car enthusiast] meetings in Griffith Park. And it's a little bit funny [seeing] all these cars with the sublime nature," says Kunath, who sees L.A. as "a complicated city full of substance but also full of surface. I think this is still the best city for an artist to step into — this roller coaster of never-ending dualities and paradoxes that it holds."

WHERE 2727 S. La Cienega Blvd., through Feb. 25

WHO COLLECTS "Friedrich's work is the perfect ethos of Los Angeles — brightness and noir," says Endeavor executive chairman **Patrick Whitesell**. "It drew me in because of its romantic view of the world filled with lots of humor and irony." [THR](#)

The THR Guide to L.A.'s Busy Art Week

From Culver City and DTLA to Hollywood and Santa Monica, five fairs are unspooling across L.A.

The Art Fairs

Frieze Los Angeles — which has moved to a new location at Santa Monica Airport after stints at Paramount Studios and a tent in Beverly Hills — runs Feb. 16 to 19 in the Barker Hangar as well as in a massive tent specially designed by WHY Architecture. The airport spot, says **Christine Messineo**, fair director of Frieze, Americas, "allows us to expand both our physical imprint but also our ambition." This year, a record 120-plus galleries are participating, while Frieze Projects



Messineo

will showcase sculptures and installations such as **Chris Burden's** monumental *40 Foot Stepped Skyscraper* and **Ruben Ochoa's** *Class C*, a mobile art gallery housed inside his family's former tortilla delivery van. Additionally, five off-site activations, shepherded by **Jay Ezra Nayssan** of the nonprofit Del Vaz Projects, are planned, including a show of work by the late artist **Julie Becker** exhibited inside the Santa Monica childhood home of **Shirley Temple**. *General admission tickets start at \$102, frieze.com* ... The LA Art Show is back for its 28th edition at the L.A. Convention Center, running through Feb. 19 and featuring more than 120 galleries, including 14 from South Korea and six from Japan. *Tickets from \$30, laartshow.com* ... Felix LA returns for its fifth time to the Hollywood Roosevelt, with galleries set up in cabana rooms as well as on two floors in the hotel tower. Expect a party atmosphere around the hotel's famed **David Hockney**-painted swimming pool. *Tickets from \$40, felixfair.com* ... The Spring/Break Art Show LA welcomes visitors to Skylight Culver City through Feb. 19, featuring around 60 exhibitions put together by independent curators. *Tickets from \$30, springbreakartshow.com* ... A new fair, Photo Forward Los Angeles, runs for two days, Feb. 18 and 19, at Bergamot Station's Danziger Gallery. *Free admission, photoforwardla.com*

New Galleries

Hauser & Wirth just debuted its new West Hollywood space featuring *People Are Strange*, a show of works by **George Condo**. 8980 Santa Monica Blvd., [hauserwirth.com](#) ... Located in part of a home/art studio built 25 years ago by artist **Jose Pardo**, the new Sea View gallery in Mount Washington recently opened its inaugural exhibit, a group show titled *River Styx*. *Appointment only, sea-view.us* ... Downtown's François Ghebaly gallery has just opened a second location in West Hollywood featuring *Liquid Clay*, a sculptural installation by artist **Patrick Jackson**. 1109 N. Poinsettia Place, [ghebaly.com](#) — D.P.



Edward and Nancy Reddin Kienholz's sculpture *The Potlatch* will be on display at L.A. Louver's Frieze booth.

KUNATH: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND BLUM & POE; LOS ANGELES: NEW YORK/TOKYO; BIENHOLZ: ART COURTESY OF L.A. LOUVER; HALL: MICHAEL SCHMELING; CARTER: ART UNDISCOVERED; TY IMAGES; WHITESELL: LAMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES; MESSINEO: FRANK BODDAPY/GETTY IMAGES; HALL: MICHAEL WEDON.