

LOCAL LOVE: A L.A. GIFT GUIDE • THE BLACK INDEX EXHIBITION • THE DEEP WEST STOP ARGUING AND MAKE MUSIC

LA WEEKLY

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The 2021 Valentine's Day Gift Guide



Get Sexy With Satori



Learn how to use cannabis-infused chocolate to create decadent desserts for Valentine's Day.

Visit our website for delicious recipes dosed with just the right amount of THC.

Order chocolate bars and bites online at satorichocolates.com for delivery or pick-up at a dispensary near you.

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VALENTINE'S DAY GUIDE 2021



This Valentine's Day we're celebrating everyone's favorite flower and all the love that can go with it. From self love to loving on your partner, our green guide will have you ready to celebrate love well beyond the 14th!

HUSTLER Hollywood

At HUSTLER Hollywood, Valentine's is sort of our thing. It's a season of love, romance... and LOTS of bedroom fun!



One of our favorite ways to show love is to give the gift of orgasms. Shop our curated list of sexy gift ideas to enhance that big-O and show them some big love, via our Valentine's Gift

Guide. Our down-and-dirty guide features our best-sellers, new arrivals, top naughty gifts and ooooh so much more!

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Get Sexy with Satori



Learn how to use cannabis-infused chocolate to create decadent desserts for Valentine's Day.

Surprise your partner with an impressive Cannabis Chocolate Molten Lava Cake! This easy, delicious recipe makes two cakes at 10mg THC per serving. Made with sustainably sourced Latin American cacao, this is a classic dessert with no dairy, no eggs, and perfectly dosed with fast-acting Satori Singles chocolate bars.

Visit our website for a wide selection of chocolate dessert recipes dosed with just the right amount of THC!

Order online at satorichocolates.com for delivery or pick-up at a dispensary near you.

Huni Badger



Love getting lifted with that special someone in your life? Love adventures and being on the go? Now is your chance to grab a pair of Huni Badgers and match up this Valentine's Day with our special offer: Buy two kits and get 50% off the second kit with code HBLOVE (valid from 2/8-2/14/2021). Create elevated memorable moments with your loved ones and experience torchless dabbing, using the best portable vaporizer on the market!

www.hunibadger.com

Moxie



available at
highnowdelivery.com

There's nothing basic about these Rosé flavored edibles, back

for a limited time from Moxie. These juicy treats offer 10mg of fun in every piece and make the perfect gift, whether for yourself or that special someone. So don't wait, take your V Day to new heights, whether staying in or going out, these gummies are sure to please.

Order now at highnowdelivery.com

Koi CBD



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koicbd.com/vday

Khemia



Imagine yourself with a sweet cherry and chocolate flavor then add the aroma of rose petals. Yes! You can treat yourself to luxury every day. Made from Kimbo Kush and Cherry pie, this Indica-dominant Strain is unmatched. Great for relaxed environments, this Cherry Cheesecake Rose Pre-Roll will relax the body and the mind allowing you to focus on the task at hand. Perfect for socializing with friends, seeing a movie, or visiting an art gallery. The Cherry Cheesecake Rose Pre-Roll can be added to the enjoyment of your everyday life. This strain was grown by Sonoma Hill Farms, pesticide-free, and kissed by the California Sun. How can it get better than this?

khemiamfg.com | IG: @khemiamfg

Plus Products



This Valentine's Day, set the mood with PLUS cannabis-infused edibles. Studies suggest a low dose of THC (5mg or less) can increase arousal and may also stimulate desire, so let us be your PLUS one for your romantic romps on this day of love. PLUS offers a variety of cannabis gummies in different THC:CBD ratios, containing 5mg THC or less. And by leaning into our body's natural metabolism of THC, gummies provide a longer lasting effect than other forms of cannabis consumption, so you can pop a gummy (or two!) and look forward to a long, titillating night ahead.

Shop PLUS delivery. Use code **PLUSLAWEEKLY** for 20% off, exp 02/19/21.
shop.plusproductsthc.com

Wana Brands



What's more romantic than a cozy night in with that special someone? Infused with a relaxing, terpene-enhanced THC blend, Wana's Blueberry Indica Gummies are the perfect gift to enhance your at-home Valentine's Day activities, whether that means cuddling up on the couch, sitting down to a candle-lit dinner, or something more... hands on. Vegan and gluten-free with all-natural ingredients, they're suitable for just about any diet, and they're absolutely delicious to boot. And don't worry – if slow and sultry isn't your jam, Wana Gummies also come in energizing Mango Sativa, balanced Watermelon Hybrid, and

a range of CBD/THC ratios.
www.wanabrands.com

Flav



Happy valentine's day from Flav!
 This year give your special someone a gift they'll really feel. Nothing says I love you like our limited edition cannabis-infused Valentine's gummies! These gluten-free hearts and rings have 100mg THC per bag, and will fill you and your special someone with the joy of Valentine's day! Also for a limited time get 50% off all our CBD products with code **VDAY50**.

Do yourself a FLAVor! Promo Code for CBD: **VDAY50**

www.FlavCBD.com

Kurativ



Relax. Kurativ Delta 8 THC is here – with an exclusive discount for LA Weekly readers.

You may have heard the buzz about Delta 8 THC. Derived from Organic Hemp, this all natural and legal cannabinoid delivers calming therapeutic relief without the intensity of Delta 9 THC.

Since 2018, Kurativ CBD has delighted customers with premium hemp products at affordable prices. Shop Delta 8 oils, gummies and more at KurativCBD.com today!

Save 25% storewide with code **LAWEEKLY25** at checkout.

GS Holistic

Created in collaboration with iconic Los Angeles rapper and entrepreneur B-Real, The Dr. Greenthumb's X Stündenglass® Gravity Bong is a sophisticated and elegantly designed 360° rotating glass bong that generates kinetic motion activation via cascading water displacement, opposing airflow technology and the natural force of gravity. This green and gold conversation starter is designed for functional versatility. It's a complete set that includes an aluminum hookah bowl kit and a glass bowl,



but can also connect to any smoking or vaporization device with a 14mm male joint.
www.gpen.com

Stundenglass



Created in collaboration with iconic Los Angeles rapper and entrepreneur B-Real, The Dr. Greenthumb's X Stundenglass® Gravity Bong is a sophisticated and elegantly designed 360° rotating glass bong that generates kinetic motion activation via cascading water displacement, opposing airflow technology and the natural force of gravity. This green and gold conversation starter is designed for functional versatility. It's a complete set that includes an aluminum hookah bowl kit and a glass bowl, but can also connect to any smoking or vaporization device with a 14mm male joint.
stundenglass.com

Emerald Sky Edibles



Nothing says "I Love You" like Emerald Sky's sweet and chewy gummies. Infused with Emerald Triangle's finest distillate these delicious treats are sure to enhance the mood! The Wildberry (Indica) are perfect for a chill night in, while the California Orange (Sativa) are a date night necessity. If you're not sure where

the night will take you, then the Apple Pear or Sour Watermelon (Hybrid) will prepare you for anything. Dosed at 10mg and individually wrapped, these confections are a must try, whether or not you plan on sharing.
Eaze.com

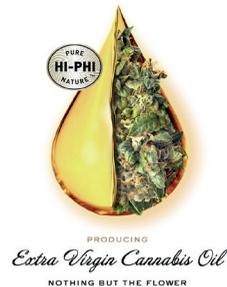
Higher Path



Flowers are for everybody this Valentine's Day! Visit our dispensary to stock up on chocolate, flower, infused salves, and much more to take your Valentines a little bit higher this year. Enjoy 14% off our curated Valentine's collection including House of Saka's infused rosè, Love Potion by Yummy Karma, and Select Brand products. 20% off all Mary's Medicinals topicals! Don't forget to show your furry friend some love this Pawlentine's Day with 10% off VET CBD. Each customer will receive a \$1 house preroll joint with minimum purchase and a special surprise coupon for returning customers. See you soon! <https://www.thehigherpath.com/>

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With a choice of uplifting euphoria, calming relaxation, or harmonious balance, Mistifi pens are free from any additives; crafted with extra-virgin cannabis oils from top-shelf flower; extracted with 'Hi-Phi', the unrivaled low-heat high-pressure technology; the only process that retains the same proportions of active compounds found in the native flower; creating exceptionally smooth, aromatic and powerful experiences. The proof is in the pull: 200 draws and experiences in every pen. Find a Local Retailer Today!
www.Mistifi.com

HOUSE OF SAKA

Award-winning House of Saka PINK is the first and only infused beverage made from Pinot Noir grapes picked from select vineyards throughout Napa Valley. The grapes are traditionally fermented before the alcohol is gently removed and replaced with House of Saka's proprietary THC:CBD formulation. Each glass has fewer than 16 calories and includes 8 mg of THC, and 1mg of CBD. It offers a sensual high with rapid



onset and offset effects for a predictable and social experience. Order doorstep delivery @ houseofsaka.com.

High 90s



What's Valentine's Day without indulging in your favorite sweets? High 90s has changed the way we think about cannabis with their wax-infused flavored pre-rolls, and soon, their matching rechargeable vapes pens. The proprietary blend of natural terpenes in their pre-rolls makes for some sweet smoking, and we can hardly wait to try their vapes. Check out the eclectic and upbeat vibes of High 90s next time you stop by your local dispensary.
High90s.com

Elemental CBD



Stay in the Valentine's Day spirit and treat yourself to our CBD Gummies with an at home movie night! Our flavorful, classic-style gummies are infused with Broad Spectrum Phytocannabinoid-Rich (PCR) Hemp Oil and 0.0% THC. Elemental CBD offers a holistic approach if you're looking for Premium Quality CBD products from Oil, Tinctures, Gelpcaps and Gummies.

20% off your order with our Valentines Promo Code: **VDAY20**
www.ElementalCBD.com

LOCAL LOVE

A Valentine's Day L.A. Gift Guide

BY LINA LECARO

Whether you're married, dating, got a FWBB (friend with benefits... in your bubble) or single with platonic "galentines" or "bromances," the hearts-everywhere holiday doesn't have to be stressful or same ol' same ol' when it comes to gift-giving. Here are some of the best we could find, all of which have local ties and/or support and reflect inclusive small-owned business models. Spreading love can go more ways than one when you buy local and mindful, especially during tough times.

SWEETS & TREATS

Heart shaped box o' chocolates are so passe, but candy gifts can still be a treat. L.A. based **Sweet Lolli** offers a new kind of conversation candy that goes beyond those chalky hearts,



with curated charcuterie and candy boards you can personalize with names and endearments like "Bae, UR Cool, Miss You," and "XOXO." www.sweetlolli.com

Someone in your life obsessed with *RuPaul Drag Race*? Make 'em feel like a queen with former contestant Latrice Royale's new confection called **Ruby Royale**. The bodacious blend of ethically-sourced ruby cacao-covered almonds,



pistachios and cranberries from Squirrel Brand makes for a sickeningly sweet snack. www.qvc.com/Squirrel-Brand-Ruby-Royale-Assortment



Snoop Dogg wants you and your boo to get your drinkzizzle on this Valentine's Day via his wine brand **Snoop Cali**, which features AR "8th Wall technology" and interactive web-based augmented reality on any smartphone. Go to www.askthedogfather.com on your mobile device, scan the bottle and ask a miniature holographic Snoop a question about love or life. www.19crimes.com/wines

Typsy Gypsy Bars have been providing unique bar rentals for Southern California events like weddings and engagement parties, but

now that most events are on hold, the woman-



owned company has found a new way to offer festive cocktails for lovers. Their jar-packaged **Gypsy Drinks** kits feature fun flavors and whimsical touches like dried fruit and marshmallows (for their 'S'More-Tinis) – just add the booze and your beau.

www.thetypsygypsybar.com/shop-gypsy-drinks/

BOXES FOR BABE

The Pasadena-based subscription box company called **Loot Crate** aims to provide pop



culture driven prezzies for the nerd in your life. Give a surprise bundle of collectibles, ephemera

and more from your favorite movies, TV shows, games, comics and more each month. For Valentine's Day, they are offering 20% off for new customers (with code VDAY20). Specialized box themes include the basic Lootcrate, Lootcrate DX (premium collectables), Loot Remix (surprise), Loot Fright (horror), and Loot Sci-Fi (science fiction stuff). lootcrate.com/

If you have a cannabis lover in your life there is no better gift out there than a subscription to **Nugg Club**. N.C.'s team of certified cannabis



curators put the boxes together every month, allowing subscribers to specify favorite strains (sativa, indica, hybrids) and ways to consume (pre-rolls, flower, vapes, etc.), all of which come packed inside a beautiful box. And it's a deal too. At \$99 a box, most Nugg boxes value at double or more, and though it's a subscription, you can arrange frequency and cancel at any time. For V-Day, the February box offers top brands and an array of add-ons (including tasty THC-infused treats) for a nominal extra fee. nuggclub.com/

Cannakits are out to not only normalize cannabis use in modern culture but make it cute

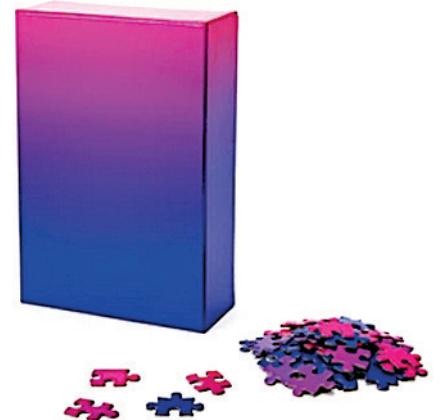


too, tying in nostalgic references into adorable "joint kits." Krystal Moore's smoke box line includes: rolling papers with a magnetic backing (so that they stick to the lid of the tin), a ying yang or smiley face metal grinder about the size of a quarter, mini bic lighter with hemp string wrap, RAW tips, and a handmade clay ashtray. Fans of *Mean Girls* (design: "Burn Box") and *Scooby Doo* (design: the "Munchy Machine" van) will be high on anyone who gives 'em these – just don't forget to add some weed! www.instagram.com/shopcannakits/

(For more Cannabis-related Valentines Gifts, see Jimi Devine's Gift Guide).

SHOPS (IRL or ONLINE)

Check out **Candid Home**'s storefront in Silver Lake or order online. Either way you shop,



goodies here will add pizzazz to your valentine's home decor. Owners Brooke Golding and Ashley Leahy both have backgrounds in styling and art so their store offers a fun mix of one of a kind and multiple stocked items. We like their vibrant gradient puzzles by Areaware and the candle selection including hand poured L.A. brand Mar Mar, which gives to an organization that provides jobs for adults with disabilities. 3039 Sunset Blvd. Silver Lake. candidhome.co

Make your own custom nail shades for you or your partner for V-Day at **Only Color Labs**.



Shop Sexy

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PURCHASE*

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HOLLYWOOD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, WEST COVINA

*Must present this ad and meet minimum purchase to redeem. Valid at listed retail stores only, not available online. Offer ends 2/28/21. CODE: VDAYAD21

You can create your colors via socially distanced visits to their storefront or online and get it shipped after a virtual session too! 7621 Beverly Blvd. L.A. colorlabs.com

If you're one of the lucky ones who hasn't been hurt by the pandemic or want to go luxe with your stimulus check, L.A.'s own **Fred Segal**



offers Fred's Love Lounge Valentine's Day Shop with curated clothing, signature sleepwear and loungewear, accessories, jewelry, watches and home decor to make your significant other feel pampered. 8500 Sunset Blvd. West Hollywood. www.fredsegal.com

BEAUTY & SKINCARE

For a healthy treat that you don't eat, but your skin will devour, give **Lola Blue**. This Califor-



nia woman-owned company's "Food For Your Skin" makes body polish and scrubs in yummy flavors like creamsicle, vanilla latte and turkish delight. We think the trio makes a tantalizing gift. www.lolablueorganix.com

More queen things! Brian Michael Firkus aka Trixie Mattel from season 7 of *RuPaul's Drag Race* isn't the first drag superstar to put out a makeup line, but **Trixie Cosmetics** does have



the most appropriate packaging for the season, with lots of heart-adorned products and girlie shades. The "Summer of Love" blush palette is a lovely example, and with shade names like "Side Chick," "Girl On Girl" and "After School Special," it's a gift that should leave everyone rosy-cheeked. www.trixiecosmetics.com

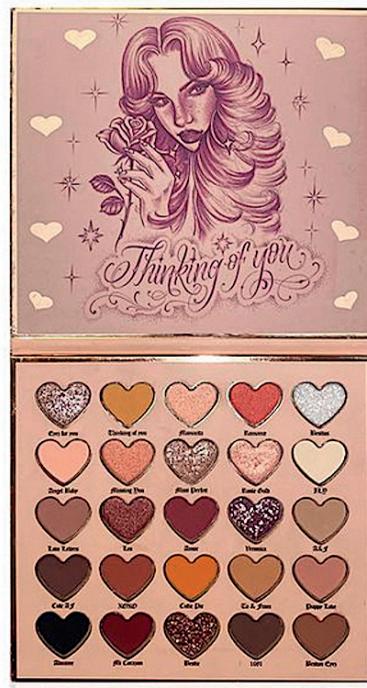
If you plan to do a lot of kissing on Feb. 14, you better have a clean mouth. The local tooth-care

brand called **Bite** features toothpaste bits/pel-



lets in jars that work just like the gooey stuff in a tube and make for a refreshing gift idea. They've got a "Mint to Be" set for Valentine's Day, which includes one Mint and one Charcoal bottle, plus a two-pack of their Bamboo toothbrushes. Bring on the smiles. bitetoothpastebits.com

Our vote for coolest makeup palette to give and get for V-Day has to be **Lucky Lash**



Co.'s Chicano culture-inspired "Sad Girl" and "Thinking of You" lines. Both designs (which are also available on notebooks and other items) from the Texas-based company were created by L.A. and California-based artists including Art de Cecelia and Em Scott. www.luckylashesco.com

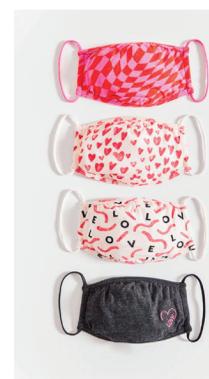
Soft lips are just as important as nice breath and L.A.'s **Roen** has created a trio of liquid lip



balms to give and gloss. This non-sticky alternative to the classic lip goo offers high shine that won't glop on your makeout partner. It comes in a Valentine-ready trio gift set with a shiny nude, dusty rose and deep berry hues. roenbeauty.com

LOUNGEWEAR LOVE

If you're going to buy your significant other something to wear in 2021, here's a tip: make it soft and comfy. **Z Supply's** "Z Lounge" col-



lection of loungers, joggers and PJ-inspired pieces are perfect, especially their "Love Notes" line which offers cuddle-ready clothing to wear at home and heart-covered facemask sets for those who must go out. zsupplyclothing.com/collections/z-lounge

Designed and created in Los Angeles, the woman-owned brand **Dippin Daisy's** has more cozy, loungey styles to



covet. From tie-dye tops and bottoms to hoodies and onesies, their plush designs offer a more practical but still sexy alternative to typical lingerie. www.dippindaisys.com

STYLISH GOODIES

Men and women alike will appreciate **Please Notes Goods'** line of affirmation-filled paper products to help with focusing on goals and finding inner confidence. The Black woman-



owned L.A. company makes guided journals (for gratitude and clarity), mirror decals, water bottle labels and more to provide positive reminders about life for the ones you love. pleasenotes.com

Give the gift of creativity this V-Day with **By Dilly Dally's** color-your-own cell phone cases



and design-your-own options. The premade designs – lighting bolts and the timely message "Wash Your Hands" to name a couple – come with permanent markers to personalize as one wishes.

www.bydillydally.com

A multimedia artist based in Los Angeles, Linda Chen makes ghouly/groovy gifts for **Creepy Gals** and those who love them. The



girlie girl with an edge in your life will love to get her kitschy valentines, vintage fetish art, and Fleischer-esque cartoons, reinterpreted with goth-y sexy-flair on t-shirts, paper products and accessories. linktr.ee/Creepygals

Make sure your lover never forgets to text back by giving him/her/them a gorgeous cell phone case from **Zero Gravity**. The local



brand says they draw inspiration from “the hustle of Downtown L.A. and the breeze from the Pacific Ocean,” and their well-crafted, embroidered cases protect your phone and look chic at the same time. The rainbow “LOVER” design is great for the loud & proud in your life. www.zgla.com

Monster fans will scream for Vixen’s By **Micheline Pitt’s** Frankie, Bride and Creature bags, and the local designer’s equally vampy clothing line, and her floral affair collection



is a wearable alternative to flowers that’ll last a lot longer than a bouquet. (Pitt was one of our *L.A. People Issue* subjects last year). www.michelinepitt.com

See more gift ideas in our expanded Valentine’s Guide on LAWeekly.com

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CANNABIS

THE PANDEMIC WEED, SEX AND CHOCOLATE GUIDE

BY JIMI DEVINE

It's time for the Pandemic Weed, Sex and Chocolate Guide. Our annual cannabis-infused Valentine's Day list is ready to help you with liftoff on your way to a romantic adventure – not “that” liftoff, but a great time regardless!

Here is a full lineup of chocolate, other edibles and drug-infused sex accessories for your favorite heathen(s) to celebrate Saint Valentine with you!

Om Gummies

Om Cannabis Infused THC Gummies are a



great option for that first Valentine's Day. You can taste the difference in the all-natural products and quality of cannabis Om uses in all its products as we noted in our recent coverage of the Liquid Cannabis collaboration with Cookies. But if you really want to turn it up a notch, the lady of Om says their Love Balm really speaks to the female orgasm, a language some dudes never learn in their lives! omedibles.org

Punch Bar Vday edition

The first chocolate to grace this year's guide comes from the always popular punch edibles.



They always seem to hit the right note with their holiday offerings – not being too tacky, having a good seasonal twist and living up to their name. Punch Bars are a more compact dosage than many of their competitors, so you won't need to eat as much. punchedibles.com

Carter's Aromatherapy Designs Tincture

One the finest “medicine first” cannabis



companies since the days of the medical era,

Sacramento-based C.A.D. continues to find itself on the top shelf when it comes to things like tinctures and topicals. There is a popular theme with some of the best cannabis companies being founded by people who were originally just trying to help family members live a better quality of life. The reason being that they bring the same ethos they used to provide for their own families into the marketplace. cad4cbd.com

Kaneh 1:1 CBN:THC Cherry Pistachio Midnight Chocolates

Kaneh has an ever-growing spread of choc-



olate-laced treats to go with their wide lineup that includes some of the more reputable baked goods in legal cannabis. But for Valentine's Day, we're recommending the Cherry Pistachio Midnight Chocolates. The CBN adds a super heavy kick for those folks who really like strong edibles and cuddling, because depending on how many you eat, just staying awake to spoon will take too much effort. kanehedibles.com

Plus Pineapple Express Gummies

So you want to pretend you took that roman-



tic vacation last year to the tropics or reminisce about contaminating the locals after not taking Dr. Fauci's advice? Plus Pineapple gummies are a great option. They're one of the more island-flavor profiles, in a sea of generally sweet or sour gummies. They're made with real fruit and high in a variety of terpenes. plusproductsthc.com



Bakes Kookie Hemp Wraps

While in past years, most of our chocolate coverage for Valentine's Day has been edible, the team at Hemp Wraps is throwing in a fun new twist. Hemp Wraps are a popular alternative to blunts that are really starting to take off. I

went in one dispensary where they just leave a box on the breakroom table for the squad. You and bae should buy some heat from the Strains Valentine's Day 2020 and roll up a blunt. highhemp.co

710 Labs x Dosist



Two of the bigger names in the concentrated cannabis space in regard to shelf space for sure, 710 Labs and Dosist teamed up for a new oil and hardware collab that hits it out of the park in pairing 710 Labs above-average quality with Dosist's tech. I was kind of sketched out when Dosist made the Time products of the year before they launched. But now, a few years removed from that epic feat of public relations, I must admit the tech is solid. The vape vibrates in your hand to let you know to stop hitting it to prevent overheating the terps. 710labs.com

Kiva - Milk Chocolate



The Kiva Milk Chocolate Bar is like the Toyota Camry of weed chocolate. Affordable, a solid quality-to-price ratio, and the same consistency year after year. If you don't want your new guy or gal (or both) to think you're high maintenance with all the candy and powdered sugar, the old reliable Kiva Bar has you covered without a doubt. There's a reason Kiva bars have seen so many competitors come and go over the years. kivaconfections.com

Chill Chocolates “That’s a Spicy” Chocolate 10mg

What?!? You’re scared you won’t be able to



get it up after a whole 100 milligrams of THC?! Fear not, we’re only judging you a little. Chill Chocolates 10mg single doses are the perfect weed chocolate for this kind of scenario. We went with the spicy flavor – the same of Valentine’s Day – but Chill has a ton of options that come in a single dose. thehighestchocolate.com

Buddy’s Chocolate Haus

This local kitchen is creating exquisite Belgian style gourmet 100mg THC infused chocolate



bars. The family-owned true hand-made small batch craftsmanship is always a nice touch with so many people scaling up to meet market demand. In addition to having great chocolate to celebrate with, Buddy’s is an Equity business located in Los Angeles. So you’ll be able to support the movement to empower communities hit hardest by the war on cannabis. We’ll be telling the full Buddy’s tale in a future issue. buddyschocolatehaus.com

Ganja Goddess: Velvet Swing Cannabis Infused Lubricant

Who doesn’t love a little drugs in their lube, right? The topical that’s said to get you the highest is massage oils spread over your whole back that permeate the skin, but I’d imagine the additional possibilities put this in second place. The lube’s creators say it’s a fast-acting, water soluble cannabis-infused lube with a formula that combines the benefits of both THC and CBD with a custom terpene blend to create a serum designed to enhance intimacy. Godessdelivers.com



Product of Los Angeles: Mexican Style Hot Chocolate 100mg

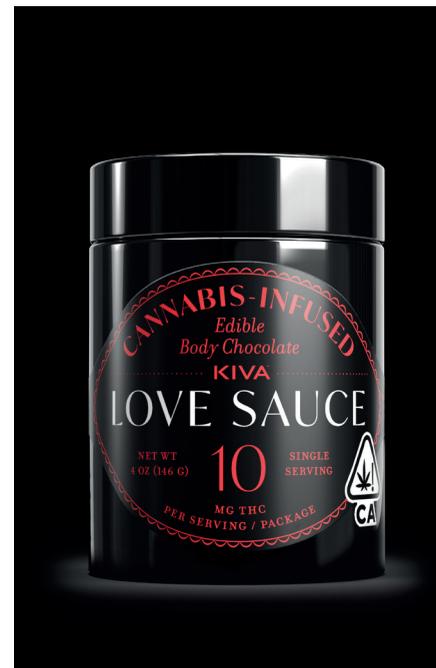
Some local chocolate with an Angelino twist, Product of Los Angeles has excellent options to crush your Valentine’s Day sweet tooth,



but we’re going with their Mexican Style Hot Chocolate out of appreciation for how unique it is. In a sea of standard milk and dark chocolate variations with a twist here or there, it stands out. Some have called it a bit grittier than milk chocolate, without the sharp edge of super high percentage cacao dark chocolate blends. oflo-sangeles.com

Kiva Love Sauce

Chocolate Weed Sex is a real thing this year thanks to Kiva and it’s the reason they scored the ultra-rare double appearance on an *L.A. Weekly* weed list. It’s standard quality with a decidedly erotic twist. Also, you can get it at



Kiva’s new web store at shop.kivaconfections.com, that way you won’t have your favorite budtender know you’re licking weed chocolate off people or serving as the place setting. It’s not weird! It’s just they’re going to remember for sure!

Artet

While weed drinks have generally been popping off a lot more in recent years, the team Artet argues what they’re creating is a cocktail in a can. “The cocktails use Artet’s flagship

aperitif as the ‘spirit’ and then thoughtfully layer in juices, extracts and tonics to build a balanced mixed drink,” they note. The two debut cocktails are: *Rosemary Jane* with Artet, grapefruit juice, young rosemary simple syrup, and sparkling water and the *Tet & Tonic* with Artet, chamomile-infused tonic and a squeeze of lemon. Each 8 fl oz can contains 5mg each of THC and CBD, allowing for a sessionable aperitivo experience. They’re available at Sweet Flower, Pottery and a variety of other shops around town. artet.com



BROTHERS IN ARMS

Sibling group the *Deep West* stop arguing and drop EP

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



It seems to be a consistent fact that, when siblings are in a band together, turbulence is inevitable. Think Oasis, the Black Crowes, and the Kinks to name just three. In the case of L.A. indie project the Deep West, the dissolution of previous group the New Limb (featuring one Ella Vos) pushed brothers Adam and Joey Chavez into doing something brand new together.

“Essentially, we started this band around 2018, and it was in the wake of the dissolution of a previous band,” says Joey. “That one was tough on us. I think it took a while to get ourselves together, because actually in the previous band we hadn’t really written that much together. So it was pretty much us trying

to learn how to work together in a new way, as well as how to produce what we wanted to make. So it was just hundreds of hours of complete and total frustration, slamming our heads against a wall, and finally we came up with an EP. It was kind of miraculous, honestly. There were many times when I didn’t think we were gonna finish anything.”

The Deep West’s sound is a mixture of modern influences -- indie, pop and some electronica. They blend it and make it their own by incorporating guitar and even some banjo where you least expect it. Having been making music together since they were kids in the garage, the band and its music come together organically.

“Traditionally our roles were that I was writing songs and then Adam was figuring out the engineering / production side,” says Joey. “It took him over a decade to get his studio together. He’s always been really great at the technical side of things. I come from the songwriting, singing and performing side. Obviously, he’s always been performing too. But now, with this new project, it’s a big collaboration on all fronts.”

“I would sing and play drums in our previous band, and then I was in charge of having a studio and recording everybody,” adds Adam. “Essentially, spearheading a lot of the production elements, paired with directing music videos and all of that stuff. Since then, I had been writing and producing other artists on the side the entire time, so it was a matter of, alright, we both speak the same language

better at that. That was one thing we definitely had to get past. We still have arguments and everything. I think it’s easier to argue when you’re a family. If we weren’t brothers and we didn’t have that tie, I don’t think we would have released anything at all.”

But they did. The debut EP is called *California Flowers*, a collection of songs that benefit from the fact that the brothers were able to knuckle down together and work on their own terms, once they’d quit scrapping.

“We really went as intentional as we could with the whole production,” says Adam. “Because we were able to minimize the number of people involved with it, we were able to actually zero in on what we wanted. Not have as many people to please during the whole process. That means that, ‘oh we’re gonna record this thing, mix it, master it, how we want it.’ We were able to get things done, get things moving, precisely how we needed to.”

The name of the EP and the band are metaphors for their relationship with their home state, the only place they’ve ever lived.

“California being a natural desert and also a land of opportunity, and our band being called the Deep West with California in the west, that’s where we’re from -- all these things stacked up into, we’re sons of California,” says Adam. “We’re these flowers trying to create some sort of beauty in the world while also, the metaphor for the dissolution of our previous project, coming out of that and being reborn. Trying to create something new and beautiful.”

A number of the songs on the EP, appropriately enough for Valentine’s Day, are about romantic relationships -- specifically “Prayer” and “Wildfire.” Other songs cover the human relationships we all regularly experience.

“Relationships in general, definitely,” says Adam. “Who are we other than the people that we are when we’re reacting to situations and life? Relationships are the most significant thing and I think that’s also reflected in our work ethic when it comes to the two of us being brothers and trying to respect each other in our own relationships.”

“Wildfire’ is about sex, but connected sex,” adds Joey. “When you have a relationship and that extra layer of intimacy. ‘Prayer’ is actually a song that I wrote to propose to my wife.”

Having recently moved house, Joey says that he’ll be spending Valentine’s Day doing home improvement projects. Adam has more ambitious ideas.

“I’ll probably be doing a hot air balloon ride, flower petals and champagne with a charcuterie board.”

As for the rest of 2021, with *California Flowers* now out, the brothers have some plans to stay busy.

“We’re currently working with a small group of guys on trying to string together some sort of COVID-friendly, animated music video with a storyline, which will prevent people from having to shoot in person, put them at risk, while also being able to put out content that’s appealing to people,” says Adam.

“Our hopes are that it’ll be really fun and weird at the same time, and we’re lucky to have a cool network of creatives,” adds Joey. They’re really good at what they do. So far we’ve been pleasantly surprised at the quality of it. Hopefully something live soon -- that would be cool.”

The Deep West’s California Flowers EP is out now.

in regards to music and writing. Now, let’s actually try to do that together and prove to ourselves that we can do this just the two of us, without anybody else in the mix.”

So that’s what they did and, ultimately, it’s all worked out. But again, there are challenges associated with being in a band with a sibling.

“I think in the first few years of doing this project we were just both in a really bad place in a lot of ways,” says Joey. “So there was a lot of older brother / younger brother stuff going on, to where we would just fight, session after session. The sessions would break down with us pissed off, completely frustrated. Luckily, that got better. Maybe it’s because we genuinely care about each other so we tried to get

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THE BLACK INDEX AND THE AGENCY OF REPRESENTATION

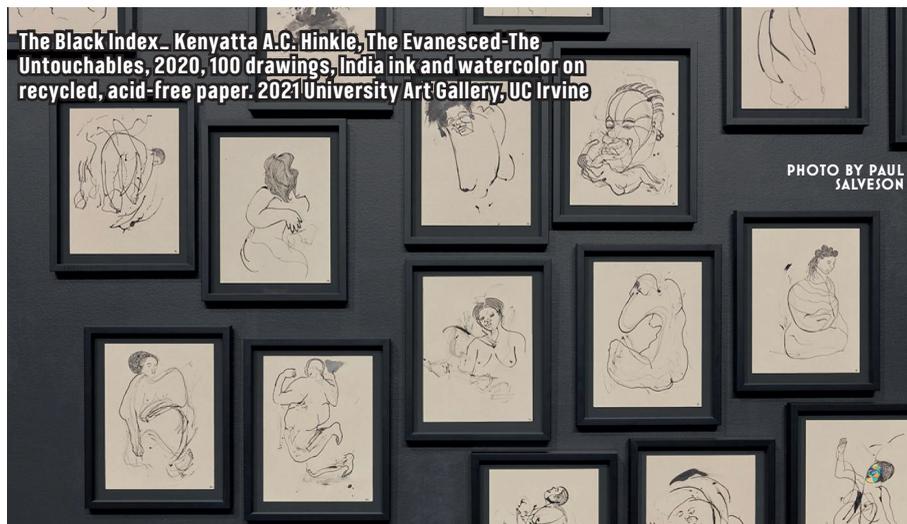
A new exhibition unpacks cultural the power of artistic depiction

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



The Black Index_ Alicia Henry, Analogous III, 2020, Acrylic, thread, yarn, dyed leather. © 2021 University Art Gallery, UC Irvine.

PHOTO BY PAUL SALVEJON



The Black Index_ Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, The Evanesced-The Untouchables, 2020, 100 drawings, India ink and watercolor on recycled, acid-free paper. 2021 University Art Gallery, UC Irvine

PHOTO BY PAUL SALVEJON

In the ongoing, intensifying quest for true social equity, curator Bridget R. Cooks' exhibition *The Black Index* makes the case for examining the volatile intersection of not only who is represented in visual culture but by whom they are depicted. In other words, as this remarkable exhibition posits, it is not enough that images of Black people are produced by artists and creatives -- it specifically matters that it be Black artists who make them. Cooks, a UC Irvine associate professor of African American studies and art history, organized and curated the exhibition, which debuts at UCI before traveling to Palo

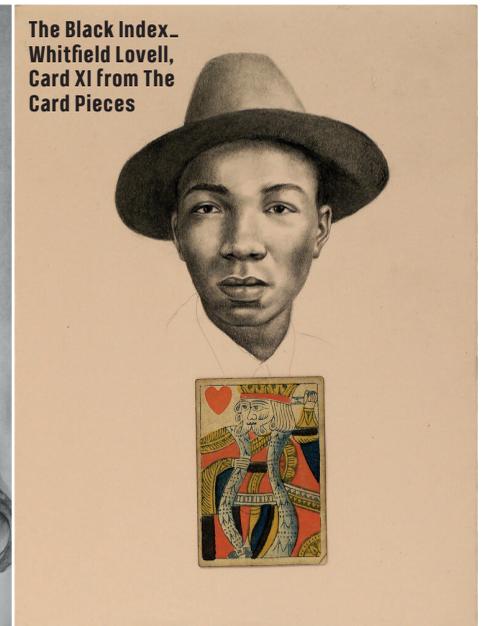
Alto Art Center in May; University of Texas at Austin in the Fall; and Hunter College in January 2022.

The artists featured in *The Black Index* — Dennis Delgado, Alicia Henry, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Titus Kaphar, Whitfield Lovell and Lava Thomas — take the power of self-representation to heart as not only an act of reclaiming the sovereign voice from the violent and insidious legacy of colonialism, but as a more perfect path to truth and complexity in art, and from there, in society as a whole. Across drawing, performance, mixed media, sculpture, and digital media, these artists take

The Black Index_ Lava Thomas, Mugshot Portraits_ Alberta J James



The Black Index_ Whitfield Lovell, Card XI from The Card Pieces



issue with the imposed mechanisms of “classification” endemic to the dominant American understanding of race, offering a poignant and self-determined set of alternatives.

Because of everything, the exhibition is only online (for now) but a well-produced virtual tour and other performance and conversation resources and even a curated playlist enrich the presentation. As you enter the site, perhaps the best place to start is with Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle's *Breathing Meditation*, an unguided slideshow of drawings from her *The Evanesced*, *The Untouchables 2020* series, whose gentle fades are timed to create serene breathing and a quiet state of open-mindedness and non-expectation with which to enter the exhibition. Hinkle's large and growing suite of drawings represent the historical and present-day unsolved disappearances of Black women in loosely abstract, ethereal yet visceral “un-portraits” anchored in powerful details that somehow embody both erasure and endurance.

Dennis Delgado interrogates the racism built into policing and surveillance -- and social media -- technology, especially as run through facial recognition. Though we often think of tech as dispassionate, the reality is that the encoded structures and implicit biases of the largely white, male programming and algorithm workforce have follow-on effects in our society that can cause very real damage in application. Delgado uses the faces of icons of Black cinema as engaging touchstones for unpacking these dangerous dynamics.

Similarly, Titus Kaphar worked in collaboration with Reginald Dwayne Betts, a civil rights lawyer to examine the oppressive, destructive and probably unconstitutional effects of the cash bail system, which like so many other public institutions and policies, disproportionately impacts Black communities. *The Redaction* features poetry by Betts by sampling and excising texts from Civil Rights Corps lawsuits, overlaid on Kaphar's etched portraits of incarcerated individuals. The works are quiet and pensive but also jarring as they express the absurdity of this pernicious inequality in a hybrid language that reveals the individual humanity behind the statistics and court battles.

Whitfield Lovell combines drawn portraits

of remembered figures from the African Diaspora -- specifically people who lived in the time after the Emancipation Proclamation and before the Civil Rights Movement -- with suites of ordinary playing cards. In these works, the cards symbolize the role of “chance” or indeed the power of larger forces beyond our control to shape our lives, while at the same time creating intimate works that evoke the energy of playfulness, social gathering, forecasting and inheritance. Cards are held in the hand, the energy of their users leave traces behind, and in this way something of the stories of bygone lives remains and gives even more life to the enchanting portraits they accompany.

Alicia Henry too is interested in the energy transferred through materials -- from the recycled leather she works by her own hand or buries in the ground to soak up all that earth magic, before transforming these skins into families of “witnesses.” Her suite of sculptural masks suggests the waiting cohort of ancestors and the gathering of collective testimony as to the unsettled past and the urgent present.

And finally, Lava Thomas' *Mugshot Portraits: Women of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, transforms these records of arrest, intended by contemporaneous authorities to shame and frighten, into proud, emotionally rich depictions of these pioneering activists on par with the regal kind of imagery of a fully realized studio portrait. By showing the self-possession and inner strength of these early heroes not as dangerous criminals but as the valiant protectors of their communities, this series blends the past and the present into a march of quiet strength with which to face the future. The specific way in which this series in particular exists within the current political and social climate -- not least in their centering of Black women on the vanguard of change -- is the perfect capstone for this affecting and timely exhibition.

The Black Index is online at UC Irvine Contemporary Arts Center through March 20, along with online programming including streaming conversations and soon-to-be-released filmed music, dance and performance art. For more information, visit *The Black Index*.

BEYOND THE TACO

At Cook's Tortas In East L.A., Telera Is King

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



When Elyan Zamora and her family came to the United States from Mexico 28 years ago, they were in search of a better economic future. Zamora and her mother, Elvira, had a dream of sharing their recipes with the diverse city of Los Angeles, which resulted in the opening of their gourmet Mexican sandwich shop, Cook's Tortas.

"With all due respect to the taco and street food, there's a lot more to Mexican cuisine," Zamora tells *L.A. Weekly* in the kitchen of their casual Mexican sandwich shop nestled in between the fast-food chains on Atlantic Blvd. in East L.A.

"A lot" is an understatement – the family-run oasis offers a variety of 27 different types of tortas on telera bread which is baked on site every day from a recipe developed by Elvira, Zamora and husband Edgar. There are also a variety of side salads that include a delightful pineapple orange coconut and pastries baked in house. It's worth it just to drop in and pick up a bag of their flaky sweet empanadas that come in strawberry cheese, Nutella cheese and dulce de leche.

Choose from the list of tortas painted on the wall, which includes everything from smoked salmon, cream cheese, pico de gallo and capers to a Milanese and Cajun fish. Top sellers include the Bombero, a generous stuffing of grilled beef, roasted red pepper sauce and avocado as well as personal favorite the shrimp po'boy, a saucy combination of battered shrimp, avocado, lettuce and red onion remoulade.

There are vegetarian options and al pastor, lengua, carne asada and molcajete for purists. Also worth a try is the #50 ranchito with grilled beef, chorizo, cactus salad, black beans, spicy

guacamole and queso fresco.

"My mom grew up in a family with not a lot of money," says Zamora. "They didn't even have a fridge. So everything was always fresh because we shopped daily, a tradition we keep here. We get our produce every day, salads are made to order, our marinades and chorizo are all made in house as well as the bread.

When the torta shop opened 13 years ago, Elvira was baking all the bread and they were over the moon when they sold 20 tortas on opening day. Pre-pandemic, the norm was 500 per day.

"Telera is a very dry, thick bread. We wanted the juices and the sauces to soak into the bread, so we developed a recipe for an artisan bread with a starter which takes about two hours from start to finish. We played around with shapes to help keep the contents inside. One of the main reasons people come to Cook's is the bread. The guys get here at 4:30 a.m. to start on the bread. We refresh the starter every day so that the flavor and consistency are always the same."

Another very special menu item is Great Grandmother's Corn Cake, a family recipe and homage to her mother, who worked as a housekeeper in Colonia Roma and discovered uncommon ingredients and techniques from her employers. In a quirky twist of fate, her father is singer-songwriter Antojito Zamora, whose *ZACAZONAPAN* appeared on the soundtrack of the Academy Award winning *Roma*.

"We did it by all the rules," says husband and partner Edgar Cortazar. "We want to give an image of Latin America and we're here to make things right in a great way. People think Mexican food is just tacos and street food. We want to show the gourmet side of this cuisine with a fresh and creative twist. The beauty of the food business is seeing somebody bite into one of our tortas and see the look of joy on their faces."



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