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THE FUTURE OF NETS

IS FEMALE, TOO

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



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ARTS

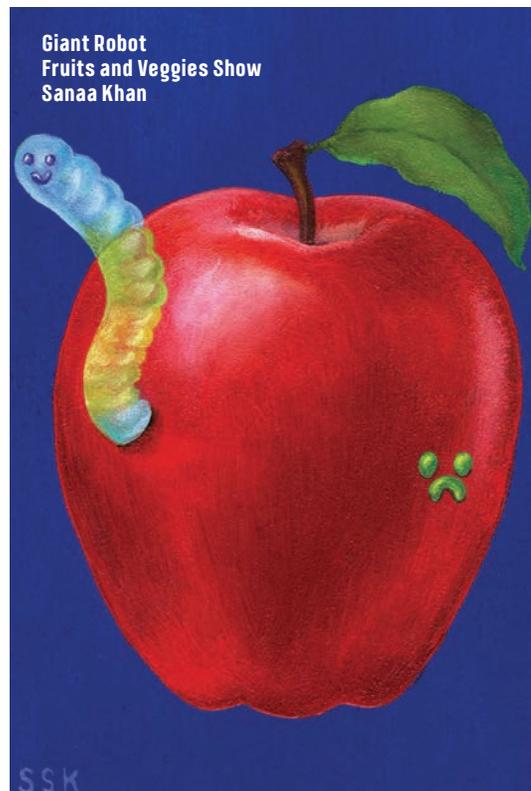
THURSDAY, MAY 26

PopUp Magazine at the Theater at the Ace Hotel. The Spring 2022 issue of PopUp Magazine is on newsstands — or, rather on tour — now. Its acclaimed live multimedia storytelling show performed at historic venues across North America features original and unforgettable true stories, art, music, and performance from diverse storytellers and journalists, accompanied by illustration, animation, film, photography, and an original live score. Imagine a comedy show, play, concert, podcast, and film — all wrapped into one night. 929 S. Broadway, downtown; *Thursday, May 26, 7:30pm; \$39-\$59; popup-magazine.com.*

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley: GET HOME SAFE, at David Kordansky Gallery. Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley is an artist working predominantly in animation, sound, performance, and video game development. Her practice focuses on intertwining lived experience with fiction to imaginatively retell the stories of Black Trans people. GET HOME SAFE is an immersive, interactive installation, and part of an ongoing archival project where the artist endeavors to remedy the state of erasure in which Black Trans lives have been removed from records of the past, accounts of the present, and visions of the future. 5130 W. Edgewood Pl., Mid-City; *Opening: Friday, May 27, 6-8pm; On view through July 1; free; davidkordanskygallery.com.*

Lanise Howard: And then they heard the wind, at Seasons LA. Howard's figures — her chameleons — stand proudly in their surreal landscapes, a realm located in a future past. These individuals command their ethereal lands, a place free from the dark historical realities of our own world. But in her new works, a sense of unease begins to show on their faces as a tempest rises in the distance. They can hear whisperings of change, some unfamiliar transmutation imposed from afar. On their horizon is a story of migration, this is all but a preface to the deluge to come. 908 S. Olive St.,



Giant Robot Fruits and Veggies Show
Sanaa Khan

downtown; *May 27, 6pm; On view through July 3; free; seasons.la.*

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Senon Williams: Holy County Line & Nathan Redwood: Portraits: Invented Subjects and Divergent Styles at prjctla. Williams presents a mixture of paintings, works on paper and sculptures in his signature style of blending text with delicately rendered landscapes and abstractions in paintings on canvas, works on paper, and 3-D works made from found wood. Redwood amasses some 100 paintings, ten on canvas and 90 framed works on paper — all portraits depicting every possible idiosyncrasy of his oeuvre to conjure a broad view of portraiture. 1452 E. 6th St., downtown; *Opening: Saturday May 28, 3-6pm; On view through July 2; free; prjctla.com/*

Fruits and Veggies: Art You Should Almost Eat, at Giant Robot. One of Giant Robot's signatures is the wide-ranging thematic group show; and one of the most popular motifs (right after cats, probably) is food. This iteration is as eclectic and offbeat as ever, with dozens of big and brand new names contributing conceptual, surrealist, sentient, anthropomorphic, badly behaved produce that's fresh and getting fresher. 2015 Sawtelle Blvd., West LA; *Opens Saturday, May 28; Online and live tour 11am; Reception 1-3pm; On view through June 19; free; giantrobot.com.*

American Artist: Shaper of God, at REDCAT. Featuring newly commissioned work in video, installation, sculpture, and drawing, Shaper

of God takes inspiration from science fiction author Octavia E. Butler's novels and life, and the lives of other African-diasporic people who formed, and were formed by, the adjoining communities of Altadena and Pasadena. The exhibition layers the landscapes in which Butler lived with those she imagined, in order to consider history's cycles, and how these patterns can unpack the present as well as grow visions of a new future. 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; *On view in the lobby gallery, May 28 - October 2; free; redcat.org.*

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Matthew Moore: Post-Socialist Landscapes at the Wende Museum. An explorer of places, both real and imagined, Moore's photographic process blends research and cartography to create bodies of work that investigate the way history and collective memory is influenced through interventions in the landscape. Moore will discuss his recent photographic project Post-Socialist Landscapes, an eight-year exploration of monument removal and relocation in countries that were at one time occupied by the Soviet Union. 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; *Sunday, May 29; 3pm; free; wendemuseum.org.*

Socialist Landscapes, an eight-year exploration of monument removal and relocation in countries that were at one time occupied by the Soviet Union. 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; *Sunday, May 29; 3pm; free; wendemuseum.org.*

TUESDAY, MAY 31

Judy Baca: Hitting the Wall, at the Getty Center. To underline the ongoing vulnerability of mural art, this focused display highlights the design, painting, destruction, and renewal of artist Judy Baca's famous 1984 Hitting the Wall mural on a freeway underpass in downtown Los Angeles. The presentation will include preliminary sketches, colorations, and an actual-size reproduction of a part of the mural. This exhibition complements The Lost Murals of Renaissance Rome, which also opens today. 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; *On view May 31 - September 4; free; getty.edu.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Kent Washington: A Black Basketball Player in Communist Poland, at the Wende Museum (Virtual). Nicknamed "The Wizard of Harlem," Kent Washington made history by becoming the first American to play professional basketball behind the Iron Curtain. In his recently published memoir *Kentomania: A Black Basketball Virtuoso in Communist Poland* Washington recounts how a basketball tour with his college to Poland in 1976 provided a unique opportunity; in the end he played there for four and a half seasons, enduring the communist lifestyle while assimilating into Polish society. *Wednesday,*

June 1, 4pm; free; wendemuseum.org.

King James at Mark Taper Forum. Basketball great LeBron James's reign in Cleveland brings promise, prosperity and renewal to a city in desperate need of all three. It also brings together two friends who communicate best when they are talking and arguing about sports. King James is an intimate exploration of the place that sports and athletics occupy in our emotional lives and relationships. It explores the star player's impact on Cleveland, from his rookie season to the city's historic championship, and the lives of these two unlikely friends whose turbulent relationship is best navigated through their shared love of the sport in a verbal game of one-on-one. 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; *Performances June 1 - July 3; \$35-\$110; centertheatre.org.*

MUSIC

MAY 27-JUNE 2

Fear Alex's Bar

Local punk vets Fear will be playing their classic *The Record* album in its entirety, for two nights in a row in Long Beach. Not to be missed. 8 p.m. on Friday, May 27 and *Saturday, May 28 at Alex's Bar, \$53.56, alexsbar.com.*

Afrojack Exchange LA

Dutch DJ and producer Afrojack hasn't released a long player in some time, but this year's "Trampoline" single with David Guetta, Missy Elliott, Bia, and Doechii is scorching fire. He was also a featured artist on Shiah Maisei's "Really Love You" single so he's been busy and it's great to see him back. 10 p.m. on *Saturday, May 28 at Exchange LA, \$75-\$125, exchange.la.com.*

Heavy Psych Sounds Fest 1720

Two days of relentlessly heavy, doomy, sludgy stoner rock that will likely be downtuned into the basement and fuzzy as fuck. Dead Meadow, Nebula, Hippe Death Cult, Weed eater, Bongzilla and the Atomic Bitchwax are among the many attractions. 3 p.m. on *Saturday, May 28 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 29 at 1720, \$30+, 1720.la.*

Ra Whisky A Go Go

Egyptian-themed L.A. alt-metal crew Ra play a hometown show, and they're bringing comic book-friendly rockers September Mourning with them. Stitched Up Heart, Above Snakes, Royalty Kult, Bantamweight and CTIV also play. 6 p.m. on *Tuesday, May 31 at the Whisky A Go Go, \$20, whiskyagogo.com.*





THE FUTURE OF NFTS IS FEMALE, TOO

Ten communities to follow for gender balance in your timeline, collection & consciousness

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Like it or not, understand it or not, the NFT-backed world of crypto art and visual culture on the blockchain has been a breakout story of Covid-era society; and there's a lot of upside for artists, like enshrined authorship, economic stewardship, global audience reach. But as many who have attempted to dive into the roiling seas of this strange new world have realized — whether as investors, artists, curators, institutions and increasingly, physical galleries — the cryptoverse is plagued by the same issues of representation as the rest of culture. A lack of women and non-binary and non-white voices makes any sector of society fall flat — be that art, music, TV/film, science, tech, fashion, food, politics, architecture or, indeed, the entire internet.

From the beginning of this phenomenon, insightful, dedicated independent artists and curators have taken preemptive steps to prevent the dreaded techbro patriarchy represented by Beppe and Bored Apes from taking hold in

Web3 — working instead to ensure that the cryptoverse future is female. Among this wave, there has also been an uptick in women-helmed NFT communities that also use the generative/derivative format of the Bored Apes and deploy it for their own purposes in both art-making and community-building. In this structure, artists create a sort of database of “traits” like background colors and patterns, animals, career or profession props, skin tones, lips, hair, eyes, badges, clothing and accessories, trees and flowers, and all kinds of stuff. They set up hundreds or even thousands of these elements, and when the buyer mints themselves a work from the series, the combinations are randomly generated into a unique (or at least rare) variation, which is then their own NFT.

Though by no means a comprehensive list, here are 10 women-helmed NFT communities that are a great place to start if you're interested in more gender balance in your timeline, collection and consciousness — or simply experiencing

some energized, eccentric, optimistic works of art that honor the kaleidoscopic diversity and power of women from around the world. All of these series are intentional about community-building activism, too, with many offering onboarding training, collecting funds, amplification support, and storytelling platforms for the women involved — both creators and investors. It's beautiful to behold.

Women Rise

A collection of 10,000 randomly generated and unique NFT art pieces algorithmically assembled from about 450 hand-drawn traits by artist Maliha Abidi, the Women Rise collection represents global women with diversity that goes way beyond skin color. Celebrating the activists, artists, scientists, coders and many others working to make the world a better place has always been central to Abidi's art and activism, and to that end, the project earmarked 7.5% of the proceeds to international organizations that

fight for women's rights, gender equity, and girls' education, and collectors can join live and virtual “clubs” that focus on science, activism and sustainability. womenrise.art; [@womenrisenft](https://twitter.com/womenrisenft).

BFF

BFF was created by Brit Morin and Jaime Schmidt, two self-described “serial entrepreneurs” who embrace a mission to help women reach their full potential. Over 100 female and non-binary figures from the worlds of crypto, tech, design, and business supported the project's launch, intrigued by creating a broad-based community of tech-heads and neophytes alone that not only generates celebrity-coveted NFT avatars, but pursues a broader vision to build art, business and advocacy collaborations across the new Web3 universe. Their open-access community helps women and non-binary people get educated, connected, onboarded and empowered within their decentralized but tight-knit community. mybff.com; [@mybff](https://twitter.com/mybff).



Crypto Chicks

This generative art collection features women of diverse backgrounds with a focus on quirky, funny, and even subversive personalities while at the same time remaining urgently aware of the need to elevate more women to leadership in Web3, and from there across all the world's industries. Focused on building sustainable, scalable programs in digital art, design and beauty, Crypto Chicks is devoted to elevating stories and teaching newly necessary skills. A unique core component of their model is the Women Artist Fund — a platform that supports emerging women-identifying artists with both exposure and actual money (well, Ethereum) by

dedicating a large quarterly fund to buy unique pieces that are then showcased and distributed across the community. cryptochicks.app; [@cryptochicksnft](https://twitter.com/cryptochicksnft).

World of Women

World of Women features 10,000 unique and diverse female avatars, conceived by artist Yam Karkai to bring change to the wider NFT community. WoW's vision is to build an inclusive Web3 through its collection, responding to the oft-cited and very damning statistic that shows how as recently as November 2021, female artists accounted for just 5% of all NFT art sales in the previous two years. "Together, we can create opportunities for anyone

around the world to be owners, creators and contributors in this new era of the web," Karkai writes. "We believe in giving back." WoW also maintains a thoughtful presence in the educating of the non-NFT and even non-art world, seeking to recruit more natural allies from across the world and its many cultures and economies. worldofwomen.art; [@worldofwomen.nft](https://twitter.com/worldofwomen.nft).

Boss Beauties

With the rousing but dead simple motto that "A woman can be everything she wants," Boss Beauties offers a collection of 10,000 diverse female avatars depicted in different, empowering roles — doctors, astronauts, presidents,

mothers, soldiers, artists, executives, athletes, and more. For 10 years, the Boss Beauties branding and marketing company's mission has been to educate and empower the new generations of women and girls; they see their NFT collection as an exciting extension of the same passion and goals — made all the more exciting for the medium's potential to capture the voices and dreams of literally thousands of independent women. Boss Beauties holders receive utilities such as tickets to exclusive music events, early access to new NFT drops, and access to the company's most intriguing partner collaborations. bossbeauties.com; [@bossbeautiesnft](https://twitter.com/bossbeautiesnft).

8Sian

Even within the lack of representation for female figures in the NFT space, Asian representation more specifically also is extremely absent — which is exactly what the 8Sian NFT collection is trying to address. The project's 8,888 Asian women NFTs showcase the plurality and majestic diversity of global Asian cultural heritages, in highly-detailed, thoughtfully adorned avatars along with traditional and modern costumes and fashion, jewelry, accessories, and personalities, as well as rich symbolism, historical and aspirational values in a lavish but elegant palette that makes the series theatrical, celebratory, fascinating, educational, and absolutely necessary. 8siannft.com; 8siannft.com.

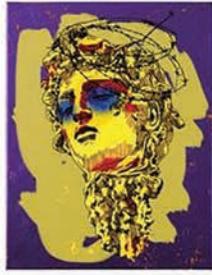
Unicorn DAO

Pussy Riot's activist platform, Unicorn DAO, is a feminist movement aiming to tackle patriarchy in Web3, in the form of an investment fund that highlights and collects NFT projects from women-identifying and LGBTQ+ artists with the same fearless zeal you'd expect from the incendiary performance art group. Standing for "gender fluidity, inclusivity, matriarchy, love, laughter, decentralization, anarchy, and anti-authoritarianism to build the infrastructure for a feminist and queer revolution on the blockchain," the DAO is not a single project but rather a platform and a fund, collecting and showcasing art created by a global community led by women, non-binary and LGBTQ+ people. Viscerally cognizant of the need to provide historically underrepresented groups tools to empower themselves and "subvert crypto bro culture," they also seek out and mentor new talent in the name of a queer mutual-support utopia in the Metaverse. The result is a dynamic, eclectic, unpredictable array of enlightened post-gender visions that approaches the NFT situation as a true revolution — and they should know. unicorndao.com; unicorn.dao.

Valfrélandia

This collection of 10,000 unique NFTs features 15 of artist Ilse Valfré's signature character typologies, variable with over 500 hand-drawn traits including saturated colors, facial and animal features (especially cats), and bubble-gum dreams in thousands of instances of ferocity and extreme cuteness. Valfré's background in character design and fantasy world-building has always been community-focused, based on and inspired by herself and the amazing women in her life; some fans identify so strongly with her vision that they've had their generative avatars transformed into tattoos! The recent explosion in





Medusa Collection



technology inspired Valfré with its perfect marriage of complexity, expansion and playtime. valfrelandia.com; @valfrelandia.

Flower Girls

Graphic designer and illustrator Varvara Alay's wildly popular Flower Girls NFT collection includes 10,000 unique NFTs generated from over 950 hand-drawn attributes (for you math-

letes, that's a yield of 492,778 ways to generate just a face; there are over six sextillion possible combinations across the collection). In the series, Alay's surrealistic sensibility and deep art-historical inflections center around the themes of natural beauty, purity and diversity. Alay's new collection Birds of Sölis — a collaborative project inspired by Audubon's Birds of America — just dropped this week, in a suite of simi-

larly structured gorgeous and romantic interpretations focusing on 20 bird species, producing a generative series of 2022 total pieces. flowergirlsntf.com; @flowergirlsntf.

Medusa Collection

The Medusa Collection is a set of 2,500 randomly generated unique NFTs by artist Mieke Marple in a large-scale artwork and restorative history fund-

raiser that dedicates 25% of all sales to Steven Van Zandt's national education nonprofit TeachRock.org. The collection is made using a salient hybrid of analog and digital techniques, based on Marple's original, heartfelt paintings of canonical 16th-19th century Italian sculptures of Medusa and her enduring but fatefully misunderstood myth. Marple described embarking on the painting series in 2019, when she read

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an 8 AD account by the Ovid that related how Medusa had been raped by the god Poseidon and then turned into a monster by Poseidon's wife, Athena. Horrified that Medusa was punished for being a rape survivor, but even more so that this was erased from her story and her status as an evil Gorgon was amplified by society, poets, artists and historians. To Marple, this felt uncomfortably similar to the dynamics of today's misogynist transgressions in everything from popular culture to politics and horrifyingly, public policy. The Medusa Collection fights back against the oldest and newest violence in this historically restorative and futuristically utopian vision. medusacollection.io; @miekemarple. 📷



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CULTURE

A NEW DAY

John Varvatos' OTD Brings Luxe Unisex Clothing to L.A.

BY LINA LECARO



Noel Kleinman

He might be best known for inventing the boxer brief, John Varvatos made a name for himself with sumptuous takes on the T-shirt and jeans combo, snazzy leather looks, sexy power suits and more—all channeling the elusive aura of rock n' roll and those who create it. The menswear designer started his career working for Ralph Lauren, followed by Calvin Klein (where he came up with C.K.'s signature waist-banded underwear made popular by model Mark Wahlberg). He launched his eponymous brand in 1999 opening stores around the U.S., with popular flagships in New York and Los Angeles (on Melrose Avenue).

Now, over two decades later, he's ready to shake things up, saying goodbye to his namesake company and starting all over with a new brand called OTD (short for On This Day). Taking over a prime drive-by spot along the Sunset Strip, at the swanky mixed-use shopping destination called "The Sunset," OTD (in the former H&M storefront) is a bold step in a new direction for Varvatos, which expands his offerings to women for the very first time. OTD debuted its first season with the launch of otdnyc.com and the opening of a store in Soho, NYC last year, but the just-opened West Hollywood location promises to take

his business to even bigger heights, with edgy and chic pieces for women and men, plus a fully unisex line of casual yet luxurious tops and bottoms, footwear, jewelry, accessories and home decor.

"The company went through a whole process of reorganization during COVID, because everything was shut down for everybody, for five months," Varvatos recalls sitting just outside the massive new store's breezy courtyard area. "And I just felt like for me, it was time to reinvent myself at that moment, because COVID made me think about a lot of things in my life. And I was also very driven to do women's. Everything shut down in March of 2020, our office, every store, everybody was closed. I have a small lake house upstate, a couple hours from New York; my daughter was in virtual school. So we all went up there. We basically lived there, and I had never spent so much time there, so it was amazing. I was also working from there. And so in August, when I walked away from John Varvatos, I decided that I needed to find my next thing and I started thinking about what changed in all our lives during COVID."

"You know, first of all, what's important to you?" he continues, explaining the vision behind his new endeavor. "What



Greyson Tarantino

changed in your style? Because most people were at home with sweatpants. There were things that touched our lives that will stay with us. I kind of took those into a new kind of a new point of view, a new DNA, a new ethos, and created something that had both that relaxed spirit, but also a sophistication to it. And also that you could go from evening to day. Even the day for everybody is a more relaxed day in general than it used to be. It's about that spirit, very much wanting to be a constant in women's clothing, and thinking so much about this unisex thing, watching the way a new culture was dressing and the way they would take different things and mix them."

Best known for dressing musicians and actors, from Iggy Pop and Alice Cooper to Ben Affleck and Brad Pitt, Varvatos also gets regular shout-outs from Howard Stern — the famed radio host had, in fact, just touted his jeans on his SIRIUS radio show the morning we met the designer in West Hollywood for the interview. The multiple winner of "menswear designer of the year" has a very loyal following and even though the Melrose store with his name remains, OTD's big new outlet and artistic visual approach (there's an eye-catching mural celebrating Los Angeles inside the new store by Denver-based artist Joe Palec) is sure to make a big impact. Varvatos's gift for effortless yet rich-looking aspirational ensembles can be seen in his new designs, but it feels more inclusive this time.

His previous stores were always known for their rockstar reverence — framed photography of music's coolest characters covers the walls — but these days he says his vision is broader. He says his new endeavor references all of pop culture in general, not just music, but also art, sports, film, television, architecture and even social media. OTD "reimagines" familiar silhouettes and for women there's some exciting new takes. Blazers, knits, tracksuits, jackets and coats (in leather and velvet) evoke a "leisure

twist" and focus "in-between season" comfort and flair. The new company's name was inspired by Facebook and iPhone's memory features, which bring up a photo from the past telling users what they did "On This Day" years prior.

Varvatos, who also just launched a new tequila brand with Nick Jonas, is clearly feeling revitalized and hopeful — as we all are, as we adjust to the new normal post-pandemic. For the designer, his work is all about storytelling, as he considers past and present. "We all like telling great stories. And when you have pop culture to talk about, and think about what you were inspired by, it works. When I was working on this Fall, I was thinking about the past's Fall jackets, so I made more lightweight pieces. For L.A. clothing needs to be much lighter."

While nostalgic nods always will be a facet of fashion, especially fashion inspired by pop culture, OTD is very much driven by the present — wearing things that make us feel good whether that be perfectly cut denim or butter soft sweaters. Varvatos is promoting "the rise of the individualized wardrobe," and his timely take on unisex feels very now, especially as a new generation echews gender roles and expression through clothing. For those who can afford it, this luxe take on casual chic is worth it — you can see and feel the craftsmanship, refined, sustainable materials (some pieces are made from recycled bottles) and sewing techniques, and exquisite detailing. His new designs may seem trendy in some ways, with camouflage, plaid and leopard prints, and cool new takes on sweat suits, but they remain classic feeling. Nearly everything Varvatos has released with OTD feels like an investment piece that can be worn on this day, and many days to come.

OTD, 8580 Sunset Blvd., Suite 300, West Hollywood. (213) 946-5170. More info at otdnyc.com. 

FOOD

SEÑOREATA SHAKES UP THE GREAT FOOD TRUCK RACE

Evanice Holz presents her Cuban heritage with a plant-based twist

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Evanice Holz started her food business Señoreata five years ago out of her Prius, popping up across L.A. and at Smorgasburg. As a first generation Cuban Brazilian American, her food reflects her Cuban heritage with a twist – all the dishes are plant-based, including a Cuban sandwich made with her signature mojo-marinated jackfruit lechón. On Sunday, June 5, she trades in her prius for a truck on Food Network and discovery+'s Great Food Truck Race.

Shot on location from Laguna Beach to the Glamis Sand Dunes in Imperial County, celebrity chef Tyler Florence returns to host, as nine teams of aspiring food truck owners compete in a culinary road battle across Southern California.

Joining Holz in the competition are Chely Salgado, who has been with her since the pop-up's sensation's debut, and their friend Adri Law, all three of which are no strangers to working under adverse conditions.

"We started five years ago and we're still working out of my car," Holz tells L.A. Weekly over a sándwich cubano and delicate fried plantain chips at Smorgasburg. "We pop up out of my Toyota Prius. This whole outdoor

kitchen setup in front of you goes in my car. I might not be able to see all the way, but somehow it works. Right now it's second nature because I've been doing it for so long, but you have to have quite the passion to sustain a business in this way. You're gritting your teeth a lot. Strapping your boots on to get ready for a whole day. It's not like in a restaurant where you turn off the lights and lock the door. When we're done here, we have to clean it all up, pack it into the car and load it back into my garage at the end of the day. The day starts at 7 a.m., and ends at 6 p.m., when this event is from 10 to 4."

The savvy L.A. native became vegan in high school but missed the Cuban dishes of her father and grandmother she enjoyed growing up, so she decided to veganize her family recipes. The traditional pressed sandwich is made with marinated jackfruit, the vaca frita features fried pulled blue oyster mushrooms, sliced onions, and lime. The frita Cubana is a rubbed smashed impossible patty topped with vegan cheese, fried shoestring potatoes, grilled onions, secret frita sauce, pickles and garlic aioli on a ball park bun. On the sweet side, there's a guava cheese pastelito in flaky



pastry, with guava and coconut cream cheese.

"It didn't take long to veganize the recipes," says Holz. "When I got the recipes from my grandmother and my father, I realized that 90% of the recipe is plant-based. All I had to replace was the protein. Once I found the substitutes, it was really easy. Conceptually, when you're going from being omnivorous to being plant-based, it seems very overwhelming. My whole culture is meat, but I realized that what balances everything is already plant-based. The work was kind of cut out for me, it was just about fine tuning everything."

Building community was the biggest aspect of Señoreata on the show, honing in on her origin story and the ethos behind her dream. Introducing a rare flavor in the vegan space to different cities and doing what she normally does once a week on a daily basis left her with a refreshed energy and confidence.

"The casting people from the show reached out to me on Instagram and I wasn't quite sure if it was real at the time," says Holz, who spends her time between L.A. and Joshua Tree, planning to open a small restaurant there in a community she describes as a true food desert. "We had no idea where we were going, if we were going across the country or staying in California. We ended up being the only plant-based truck on

the show. All I could do was prepare my team to run the Smorgasburg kitchen here, so we could still operate. It was important for me that we were available since we're only out once a week since Covid, which will change in summer, when we'll have a big pop-up schedule."

"It was such a great learning lesson, the experience on the show was wild," says the former culinary student who dropped out because being a vegan prevented her from actually tasting anything she cooked. "You can prepare yourself as much as you can for the day, but once you actually start doing things, you're thrown these curve balls and challenges. I learned attention to detail in absolutely everything and realized the stamina that it takes. We're traveling and doing social media every night afterwards, no matter how exhausted we were. If I learned anything, I learned how powerful social media really is."

So what does Holz, the first entrepreneur in the family, attribute the hard-working stamina and ambitious business sense to?

"It may sound lame, but I think it's because I'm a Virgo," she says. "I'm very detail-oriented and lean towards leadership. I think it comes from being an only child and having a do-it-myself mentality from being a first generation American, doing everything on your own." 🍌

CANNABIS

CHRIS DYER'S GALAKTIC GANG BRINGS HIS CREATIVE MIND TO NFTS

Longtime psychedelic visionary artist Chris Dyer's NFT collection The Galaktic Gang hopes to celebrate enlightenment.

BY JIMI DEVINE



As the world of NFTs continues to explode in 2022 regardless of the ups and downs of the broader crypto market, Chris Dyer's Galaktic Gang is a fun offering from a real artist.

The world of NFT is a little blurry at

the moment. The Blockchain-backed non-fungible tokens have been around for a few years, but 2021 saw the rocket really takeoff. Some saw the crypto aspects as their latest get-rich-quick scheme, while others thought they were looking at the next generation of digital



art and wanted to get in on the ground floor. Plenty of people on both sides of that fence were proven right in 2021.

In its best incarnations, you hear the ideas like creating digital provenance for things like the entire Christie's catalog preventing counterfeits of a lot of the art worth the most money. On the other end, we have weird animal-themed pyramid schemes worthy of the 2016 CBD industry. There are so many Gorillas, you'd think half these people are Jane Goodall impersonators.

But closer to the coolest end of the spectrum, you'll find longtime psychedelic visionary artist Chris Dyer. Dyer is also, of course, a friend of cannabis. His rolling trays via Positive Creations are some of the coolest anywhere and not to mention he live-painted at Chalice in 2017. If you live-painted at Chalice, you can basically just walk around giving out wook points the rest of your life and never run out, like Michael Jordan with sneakers.

As for the psychedelic side, who am I to attempt to validate someone who

paints a mural in Alex Grey's backyard every year.

Dyer had been watching the NFT space a little bit, but one week in March of 2021 saw him start to put his foot on the gas.

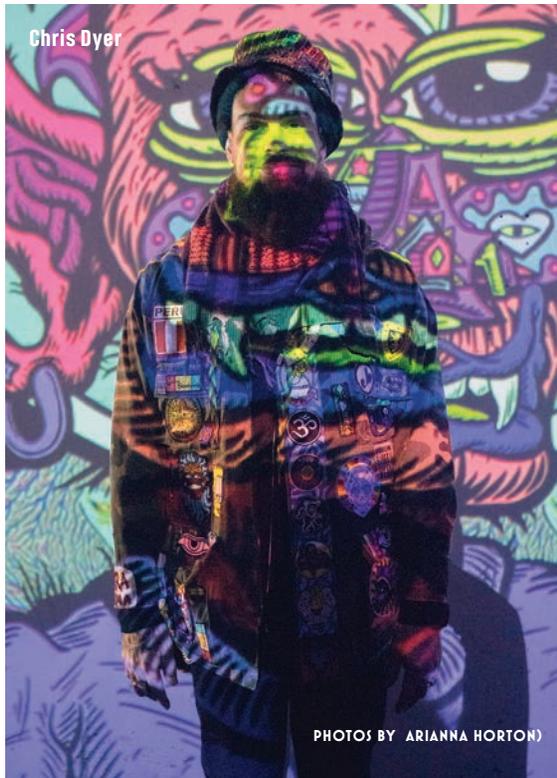
"Five different people hit me up like, these are popping off, do projects with me, a lot of people are hitting me up to do a deal with them," Dyer told L.A. Weekly. "But I wasn't going to just jump into something just because there was money. I went to investigate first. I want to understand it better."

Dyer had always been known for going all out with his positive creations, that's even what he named his company that's been around for nearly two decades. He wasn't going to skimp on his first NFT offering just because the space was moving so fast in that moment.

To get his toes wet, he decided to start with a few high-end animations worthy of his first offering, just to further wrap his head around the whole process.

"And they worked well. And then when I moved to Denver on Halloween

Chris Dyer



PHOTOS BY ARIANNA HORTON

of last year, my company Positive Creations and this glassblower Kyle Morton were like, let's do a series that's 1000," Dyer said.

This left him wondering, how does one actually do thousands of NFTs? Dyer learned not long after they could create an algorithm that randomized face parts. If they didn't work well together? No problem. They could set filters that prevented components that didn't fit well together from being paired up.

Dyer would spend weeks creating the pieces that would be used in the algorithm.

"So that was a very fun, beautiful concentration of drawing. I was drawing for weeks. And all these new creatures came out, The Galaktic Gang," Dyer said.

"And then we offered them as a series of 5555, which is a number I chose because of spiritual alignments. It's about these creatures that are interdimensional beings from the fifth dimension who are here to guide us, humanity, through the process of ascension and self-realization, and finding our balance. So it's the population of the earth, 8 billion people divided by 144,000."

Dyer explained that the 144,000 number comes from various prophecies that argue that when you can get that many enlightened conscious beings, they will be able to turn the table and start influencing the rest of humanity to do their spiritual work and find balance first inside themselves and then for humanity itself.

The Galaktic Gang was minted last December after a month of drawing and coding. They've already achieved all the initial goals.

"We're on the 2.0 road map with new goals that we have for the project, which

are still underway because they're more complicated. It has to do with improving our members and 3D airdrop assets, in-person events, online events, and planting trees in Hawaii."

We asked Dyer what he would say to those people nervous about getting into the NFT space. The take of someone like Dyer that's actually dedicated their life to art should be weighed more heavily in these kinds of conversations.

Dyer focused on the hopefulness of it all in his reply.

"It's a place of openness, of observation and creativity because you're creating it along with other people," Dyer said. "There are no rules at this point. We can come up with new things that hadn't been done before. And because it's all based on technology, there are fewer limits."

Dyer noted the Galaktic Gang's other core members are Kyle Morton, Cory Ponz, Jason Turnquist, Travis Delly and Gabe Herrera. [E]



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MUSIC

ANNA SOFIA RELEASES
NIFTY NFT

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

Toronto singer and songwriter Anna Sofia has been performing for her entire life, initially as a dancer and pianist. She was actually a competitive ballet dancer, and she studied with the Royal Conservatory for piano.

"Then at around seven, my piano teacher started teaching vocal lessons," Sofia says. "I had always sung, but nothing serious. But then I started doing it all in a mix – playing piano, dancing and singing. Church or school events, all of that fun stuff in the community. Around age 14, I started to write my own music, and slowly started to build my team around me and started to release music. We're here now."

"Now" is the dark experimental pop music that she has made her own. Her *Let Me Out I'm Free* EP just dropped, and it's an emotionally draining affair.

"I love to try everything out and make it my own, and make it cohesive with the rest of my music," she says. "I think it's got that pop origin, but there are so many other things that I try around pop. It's 100% meant to be dark. It's not meant to be nice. I didn't want you to feel your best. I didn't want the songs to be empowering. I wanted it to be an eye-opener. The entire EP talked about a point in my career where I felt heavily controlled by the industry. It was not a good time. This was me being able to tell it to the world, and be a little bit more honest with the people I've been sharing my life with. I've gotten a really good response to it."

A great example is the "Cruel World" single, which Sofia describes as one of her favorites that she's ever written. Again though, it's not a jolly ditty.

"It's really just about my experience with finally entering the real world," she says. "This is my first year out of school, I moved in by myself and am doing my own thing for the very first time. It was just written about my take on first impressions of the real world. Honestly, it's a rude awakening. It's not pretty. It's

not great. I think this every day of my life – I look at other people around me and I think, 'wow, we live every day and we try to survive.' That's so scary to me. We try to make money to survive, we try to get

food to survive, shelter, and it's a terrifying thing and people will do anything for those things whether it's good or bad. So that's what the song is about."

The artist also has recorded a 15-minute short film to accompany the EP and, typically, it makes for pretty heavy viewing.

"It takes place in an insane asylum, and I am a patient that is being mistreated by the employees and facility, she says. "It's supposed to be a metaphor for what I feel like I went through over the past few years with the music industry – going through

The EP was recorded during the COVID lockdown, but specifically when the bubbles started to reopen a little bit.

"I was very nervous during COVID – I didn't see anyone until I was fully vaccinated," she says. "So I kept it to a small bubble of my immediate family, and my writer and producer. So we wrote that in 10 months over that nervous period of time. When we wrote 'Surround Me,' that was one of the worst things ever because while we were writing they had just announced another lockdown. The day was ruined by that. It was all done in Toronto at my producer Myles Schwartz's house, he goes by Losh, with my writer/instrumentalist Nick Ferraro. Just us three, and then we started to bring in other session plates and collaborators when the world started to open a bit more."

Speaking of "Surround Me," and very appropriate for this issue, Sofia has released that particular song as an NFT.

"For me, I'm still not 100% familiar with what an NFT is – the buying and selling, crypto currency and all that stuff," she says. "I'm still very much learning what it's about. It's a very new community. The real reason I got into NFTs and all of that fun stuff was just to grow myself into another community. As an artist, I don't see why another opportunity of a new community is something that we should stay away from. I wanted to hop onto it, as fast as I could. There could be people there that haven't heard my music and this is where they're gonna hear it. This is where I'll grow new fans and meet new people. What I wasn't expecting to happen was, my fans that have already been around are going into this NFT space. I didn't even think that would happen and it did, so that's really cool as well."

The artist says that she didn't necessarily think that "Surround Me" was particularly appropriate for an NFT release – she simply wanted to test the waters.

"I was like, you know what, we're new here, let's try it out," she says. "What's the worst thing that could possibly happen? I wanted to test my boundaries of what I could do with all of this NFT stuff. It went very well, and I'm surprised that it did that well. It was really an experiment. There was no real intention of this one's going to be the one."

She is planning on wading further into NFT waters though. Meanwhile, there's an album in the works.

"We have a bunch of shows coming up," she says. "I'm working on an album this year, so that's going to be really cool. There's no strict release date yet, but it's definitely happening."

Anna Sofia's *Let Me Out I'm Free* EP is out now. [E]



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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 22STCP01818 Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles located at: Central District Central Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Department 74, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Filed On May 11, 2022 - In the matter of petitioner ZORIKTO DAMDINOV. It is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter of change of name appear before the above-entitled court as follows to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Court Date: 07/11/2022, time: 10:00 a.m., Located at Central Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Department 74, Los Angeles, CA 90012. And a petition for change of name having been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioner(s) desire(s) to have her name changed from: ZORIKTO DAMDINOV to ZORIK DAMDINOV. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the said matter of change of name appear as indicated herein above then and there to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published in the LA Weekly, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, once a week for four (4) successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of said petition. Set to publish 5/20 + 05/27 + 06/03 + 06/10/22. Dated: 05/16/22.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21STCP04166 Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles located at: Central District Central Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Department 26, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Filed On 12/21/2021 - In the matter of Petitioner ALEKS COUP. It is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter of change of name appear before

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the above-entitled court as follows to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Court Date: 02/14/2022, time: 9:30 a.m., Located at Central Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Department 26, room 316, Los Angeles, CA 90012. And a petition for change of name having been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioner(s) desire(s) to have his name changed from: ALEKS COUP to ALEKSANDER MELT-SER. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the said matter of change of name appear as indicated herein above then and there to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published in the LA Weekly, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, once a week for four (4) successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of said petition. Set to publish 01/14, 01/21, 01/28, 02/04/22. Dated: 01/05/22.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21LBCP00219 Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles located at: Long Beach Courthouse 275 Magnolia Ave., 1st Floor Long Beach, CA 90802. Filed On 12/03/2021 - In the matter of Petitioner MARIELA TRUJILLO. It is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter of change of name appear before the above-entitled court as follows to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Court Date: 01/28/2022, time: 8:30 a.m., Dept 27. Located at Long Beach Courthouse 275 Magnolia Ave., 1st Floor Long Beach, CA 90802. And a petition for change of name having been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioner(s) desire(s) to have his name changed from: CAMILA ROSE CARDENAS TRUJILLO to CAMILA ROSE CARDENAS TRUJILLO. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered that all persons interested in



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the said matter of change of name appear as indicated herein above then and there to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published in the LA Weekly, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, once a week for four (4) successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of said petition. Set to publish 12/31/21 + 01/07 + 01/14 + 01/21/22. Dated: 12/28/21.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT 2021047103 The following person(s) are doing business as 1. WRAPPED WITH MOLOVE 2. MOLOVE 3. LA APPAREL SERVICES Street address: 850 S. BROADWAY ST SUITE 606 LOS ANGELES CA 90014. MAILING ADDRESS: 1802 SOUTH COCHRAN AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90019. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: AI #ON 201600510094 REGISTERED OWNER(S): 1. MK APPAREL INDUSTRIES LLC 1802 SOUTH COCHRAN AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90019. This business is conducted by an LLC. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A. NOTICE - IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION 17920. A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK,

EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER, A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014. THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY

FORM. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.) Publish 11/26, 12/03, 12/10, 12/17/21. LA Weekly

NOTICE, Gary Howard filed a Summons and Petition for Dissolution of marriage against Joann Green under LASC# 21STFL14648 with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The Court's address is: 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Court's phone number is: (213) 830-0803. Mrs. Greens failure to respond to Mr. Howards Petition within 30 calendar days may result in the Court granting Mr. Howard request for Dissolution of marriage. 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20

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Promotional offer subject to eligibility for Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). Unlimited does not mean unreasonable use; see the Acceptable Use Policy in our Terms and Conditions for details. The EBB is a temporary FCC program that provides non-transferable discounts on monthly broadband internet access service. Lifeline is a government assistance program that provides non-transferable discounts on your monthly phone or broadband service. Proof of eligibility is required, and only eligible customers may enroll. An eligible household is limited to one monthly service discount for Lifeline and one monthly service discount for EBB. Eligible consumers may get EBB service from StandUp Wireless or from any participating provider. Benefits may be transferred to another provider at any time. When the FCC announces the end of the EBB program or we end our promotional FREE EBB service offer, we will notify you and you will revert to receiving only the standard FREE Lifeline plan if you are eligible, or you may keep your EBB service by paying the applicable undiscounted rate of \$40 plus fees and taxes. Lifeline plans may include 1,000 Minutes, Unlimited Text, and 4.5 GB of Data. For more information about EBB eligibility and the program go to standupwireless.com/ebb or call us at 1-800-544-4441. Offers vary by state and service may not be available in all areas. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline and EBB benefits can be punished by fine, imprisonment, or being barred from the program. Visit www.standupwireless.com for a full list of eligibility requirements and complete terms & conditions. Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a StandUp Wireless.

LA WEEKLY Bulletin

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

For a FREE consultation, please call 310-664-9000 x101 or text 310-849-5679
Website : www.workinjuryhelp.com

Warning:

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

SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

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

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

Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC

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LIVE-IN DOMESTIC COUPLE

Looking for a legal, honest, vaccinated, energetic live-in proactive couple in WLA area (2 acres, 3 adults, animals, informal lifestyle). Job requirements: housekeeping, handy person skills, cooking, chauffeuring, and car maintenance. English speaking, non-smoking, and experienced with solid references. Work 5 days a week. Tue-Sat, competitive salary + benefits.

The couple would live for free (housing, electricity, gas and internet) in a recently redone 800-sq-foot one bedroom cabin, with full bath and kitchen. Serious inquiries only please. Please send resume or work history and qualifications to April. Principals only. No recruiters, please don't contact this job poster. Do NOT contact us with unsolicited services or offers: amarkresumes@gmail.com.