SANTA BARBARA SUMMER
NOTHING BEATS THE BREEZY BEACH TOWN FOR AN ANGELENO GETAWAY
BY LINA LECARO
ABORTION RIGHTS PROTESTERS POUR FAKE BLOOD OVER LACMA’S ‘URBAN LIGHT’ SCULPTURE

An abortion rights demonstration took place at LACMA’s ‘Urban Light’ display, with protesters pouring fake blood and lying on it.

BY ISAI ROCHA

One of Los Angeles’ most recognizable art installations was vandalized on July 28 after abortion rights activists poured fake blood over LACMA’s “Urban Light” display.

The multi-beam sculpture is typically a backdrop for tourist photos, but last Thursday, roughly 25 protesters from the “Stand Up 4 Abortion Rights” and “Vets Rise For Roe” organizations made it their backdrop for a demonstration that included buckets of blood-like liquid and chains to attach themselves to light posts.

“During the protest, two female protesters chained themselves to the light pole of an art exhibit, damaging the exhibit itself,” an LAPD press release read.

“One male protester threw an unknown red liquid substance on the art exhibit and surrounding area.”

Several protesters laid on top of the bloody-looking liquid, while others held up coat hangers and hovered above body bags, saying they were representative of unsafe abortions and women bleeding out from miscarriages.

“I enlisted to defend freedom not to have mine stolen! Together we can rise up for equality and human rights,” a protester identified by Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights as Victoria Eggers said.

“This is not a protest against LACMA, but a call to the arts community and to all of society. Silence is compliance. Start taking action and Rise up for abortion rights now.”

LAPD issued two dispersal orders before clearing the area around 4:30 p.m., more than four hours after the noon protest began.

Three arrests were made after the demonstration, with bail set at $20,000. A GoFundMe fundraiser was set to collect bail money for the activists who were arrested.

L.A. SAYS NO MASK MANDATE COMING AS COVID NUMBERS DECLINE

Los Angeles Public Health announced the county would not reinstate an indoor mask mandate, as COVID-19 cases were seeing a downward trend.

During a COVID-19 update on Thursday, L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer said the decline in both cases and hospitalizations could move L.A. County from a “high” community spread, to a “medium” community spread, in accordance with the CDC’s standards.

“As we noted last week, any indication that the county would soon move to the ‘medium’ community level, would be a good reason to not move forward with universal indoor masking,” Ferrer said. “We will be pausing and not moving forward at this point in time.”

The decline in hospitalization admissions is the first since mid-April, with Ferrer saying it illustrates a drop in overall COVID-19 transmission.

The current seven-day positive case rate for L.A. County is 426 per 100,000 residents, which is still considered high by the CDC standards, but lower than the previous seven-day average of 481 cases per capita.

The CDC seven-day data from July 25 placed L.A. County hospital admissions at 11.5 per 100,000 residents, which is still considered high by the CDC standards, but lower than the previous seven-day average of 481 cases per capita.

The seven-day positive case rate for L.A. County is 426 per 100,000 residents, which is still considered high by the CDC standards, but lower than the previous seven-day average of 481 cases per capita. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, masks will still be required in health care settings, public transit, long-term care facilities, shelters, cooling centers, correctional facilities, and wherever required by private businesses.

L.A. County recorded 7,009 positive COVID-19 cases on Thursday, a decline of more than 1,000 from last Friday’s 8,091 positive cases.
BRING YOUR PALS AND CONFIDANTS TO THE GOLDEN GIRLS KITCHEN IN BEVERLY HILLS
Cheesecake Fixes Everything

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

In celebration of National Golden Girls Day, a six-month pop-up Golden Girls Kitchen opens in Beverly Hills on Saturday, July 30, as the start of a countrywide tour that will include New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Miami, where the Emmy Award-winning show was set.

The sitcom, created by Susan Harris, ran from 1985 to 1992, and starred Rue McClanahan, Bea Arthur, Estelle Getty and Betty White, the last surviving member who died this past December. The four older women shared a home, spending many days and nights discussing life's ups and downs over cheesecake in the kitchen.

Nostalgic pop-up meister Derek Berry, who brought Saved by the Max, Good Burger and The Peach Pit dining experiences to life, teamed up with the Bucket Listers events site for a fully immersive restaurant experience. They recreated the famous kitchen, character Blanche's notorious bedroom, and designed an original menu that includes the roommates' iconic dessert provided by L.A.'s own East Side Cheesecakes, in chocolate, strawberry, pumpkin and Oreo flavors.

Also on the menu are Sophia's lasagna al forno, made by L.A. chef Royce Burke, as well as Miami-style Cuban sandwiches and a selection of St. Olaf sweets like Sperheoven Krispies, Genurkenflurgen Cake and Blanche's Georgia Style Cookie.

“We were looking for which moments fans would like to see us create,” Berry tells L.A. Weekly on the lanai facing Bedford Drive. “There was always a risqué reference to Blanche's bedroom, so we brought back the banana leaves and famous pink carpet for a great Instagram-able moment.”

“In the kitchen, we tracked down some of the show's most memorable items like the lobster mold, duck cookie jar and tea kettle,” says Berry. “We went back and looked at all the episodes to make sure we had the right amount of cabinets in the kitchen and have a painting in there that's identical to the one in the show. We want people to hop in and take these authentic photos reflecting those important moments.”

Out of overwhelming demand from all generations, Berry and the Bucket Listers chose the older show that covered new ground at the time, often using gay-themed storylines, which were rare for TV then, for the pop-up, in contrast to the younger crowds they usually cater to. In reality, Blanche's character was the same age as singer Jennifer Lopez, who turned 53 this month.

“I always wanted to do something more generational,” Berry says. “Pop-ups aren't something the older crowd is as familiar with and this one can be shared by families. If a show can stay relevant as long as The Golden Girls in syndication and now streaming between Hulu and Hallmark and create merchandise deals – it means something.”

Summer travel 2022 is in full swing, even as erratic weather, COVID surges, gas gouges, and frequent flight cancellations make things challenging. We might all want to forget the reality of our surroundings and jaunt far, far away, but it’s just not practical for a lot of us, financially or mentally. And that’s where shorter jaunts and road trips come in. Last Summer, LA Weekly published practical, up-to-date travel guides for pandemic times, focused on Las Vegas and San Diego (Read both Guides in the Culture section of LAWeekly.com). This year, our concerns may have shifted a bit, but we still want escapism made easy. So it’s time for another dive into one of our favorite nearby getaways: Santa Barbara.

Let’s start with our favorite thing about this beautiful, breezy l’il town: the temps. It’s less than two hours away, but even when L.A. is sizzling at the height of Summer (July-August), Santa Barbara (SB) rarely gets above 75 degrees, and that’s because most everything you’d want to do there is located near the coast. From biking to drinking, eating to shopping, art and music appreciation, and more, SB provides a relaxed yet rousing vacay destination for so many reasons. Read on to learn about them all.

FREE-WHEELING
The pandemic made us all readjust our lives in different ways. It also made us seek out new pastimes and forms of entertainment, mostly outdoors. In L.A., drive-ins enjoyed a resurgence and outdoor movie screenings grew in popularity, for example. Many of our friends got into roller-skating and skateboarding (again) as grown adults. Personally, we rediscovered a love of bike riding and started frequenting trails in Santa Clarita, Ventura and, of course, Venice Beach and Santa Monica. But nowhere in L.A. beats Santa Barbara for those of us who like to roll, by the beach or otherwise. SB wasn’t the only city to close off streets to traffic, in an effort to provide more outdoor amusements, but it is so far the
most successful. State Street always was a hotbed for locals and tourists, but since its “emergency closure” to cars during the pandemic, it’s become one of the most unique pedestrian boardwalks in California. One side of the street is designated for walkers, the other for bikes, boarders and bladers, all of which is sandwiched by outdoor dining areas. It’s a blast for bikers, with a doable incline anyone can handle and sturdy bike racks on every block for easy lock-up anywhere you choose to stop.

According to the local paper Santa Barbara Independent, “it remains unclear” if State Street will be a permanent promenade. but it looks like it will, at least until a newly formed State Street committee makes a decision about how to move forward. And that’s a good thing for visitors. It makes this area feel special and different. The mile-long closure has revitalized the downtown corridor, as it’s allowed pedestrians and peddlers alike to safely fill the streets, as vendors, performers and more surround the pathway.

In addition to craft fairs and the like, State provides a bounty of businesses for browsers and buyers to peruse. Yes there are chain stores like Old Navy and Cost Plus, but there’s also some gorgeous old theaters – The Arlington (thearlingtontheatre.com) and The Granada (granadasb.org) that are both running – and some intriguing mom-and-pop shops like Paradise Records & Trading Post for old vinyl, collectibles and unique treasures.

(instagram.com/paradise_records_tradingpost); Punch Vintage (punchvintage.com) and Antique Alley (antiquealleySB.com) for groovy retro clothing, knick knacks and doodads; and Namaste (facebook.com/NamasteSB) for boho threads, incense and yoga-vibe accessories.

If you’re the crystals and meditation type, definitely don’t forget to check out Salt (saltcavesSB.com), featuring the largest Himalayan salt cave in North America. The retail boutique and spa has rooms crafted with 45 tons of 250-million-year-old Himalayan crystal salt, which are kept at a temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit and 40 percent humidity. Visitors recline in zero-gravity chairs for meditation and halotherapy (which touts breathing air saturated with microsalt particles for respiratory health) sessions, and there’s also massages, salt scrubs and facials available.

Also on State Street, one of the area’s best cannabis dispensaries, Beyond/Hello (beyond-hello.com) features quality flower, edibles, extracts, topicals, tinctures and pre-rolls at competitive prices. The shop is “ADA compliant and fully accessible, LG-BTG+ friendly, and offers a 10% discount to anyone 65 years or older, veterans and active military with ID.”

**SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SEA**

Also on State Street, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (Sbma.net) is always worth a pop-in for its eclectic mix of contemporary and classic works. After a six-year, $50 million renovation, SBMA revealed expanded galleries in 2021. Current exhibitions include “Going Global: Abstract Art at Mid-Century” (displaying abstraction forms during the Cold War and the proliferation of the globalized art movement) and “The Lens of Architecture: Photography, Buildings, and Meaning” (exploring photography’s relationship with architecture in the 19th and 20th centuries).

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBmrm.org), the Santa Barbara Historical Museum (SBhistorical.org) and MOXI (the Wolf Museum of Exploration and Innovation) (moxi.org) also feature revolving exhibits. See their websites for info.

Our favorite look-and-learn locale has to be the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBnature.org), which can be reached via an uphill bike trek (the downhill ride back is worth it!). In addition to its dinosaur garden and mini-observatory, its current exhibitions provide moments of wonder: “Rare Earth” featuring stunning gems, minerals and rocks, and “Butterflies Alive!” an outdoor immersion inside of a colorful butterfly filled pavilion. Both are happening thru Sept. 5.

The Santa Barbara Zoo (SBzoo.org) recently opened the “Australian Walkabout,” a 15,000-square-foot habitat recreating “Down Under,” with wallabies, kangaroos and emus; and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBbotanicgarden.org) just opened “The Backcountry,” a 4-acre outdoor path for kid play and adult discovery. Located along Mission Creek, it offers obstacle courses, waterfalls, mazes, hikes through different habitats, and more.

More oceanic exploring can be found at Stearns Wharf (stearnswharf.org), California’s oldest wooden wharf of its kind. It celebrates its 150th anniversary this year (mark your calendar for October when there will be a huge event paying tribute). There’s also “Wharf Wednesdays” (first Wednesday of each month) with live music programming and dinner deals.

We rode our bikes along the wharf (bumpy fun) and waterfront. Other biking, skating and walking spots can be found along the beach, bringing to mind similar paths in Santa Monica, only lovelier and more low-key. Local artists often showcase their work near popular paths (like Cabrillo Boulevard) on Sundays. And if you mostly enjoy being in or near the water, there’s also kayaking, surfing, sailing, fishing, horseback riding, whale-watching and more to take in. More info on these, at santabarbaraca.gov/things-to-do/waterfront/visitor-activities.

We saw The Black Crowes at the Santa Barbara Bowl just last month, and as a music lover/frequent concert-goer, we couldn’t believe we’d never been to the beautiful outdoor venue. Smaller than both the Hollywood Bowl and the Greek Theater, this mini-amphitheater nevertheless has a similar feel and tends to get all the big tours we do in L.A. What makes it special is the view (you can see the ocean from the cheap seats). The sound and stage setup are top-notch, and the place even has a cool bronze statue of Jerry Garcia’s hand, recognizable due to the Grateful Dead musician missing most of his middle finger after a childhood wood-chopping accident. The Crowes, by the way, killed it. If your favorite band is playing SB’s bowl, it’s worth the visit. See the upcoming schedule at SBBowl.com/concerts.

**STAR POWER**

While we’re mentioning music, it might be a good time to acknowledge that SB and, in particular, the Montecito area, is known for being home to some major recording artists, from Katy Perry (and hus.S.B. and Orlando Bloom) to Depeche Mode’s Martin Gore (when we interviewed him a couple of years ago, he noted the city’s nice weather, more relaxed alternatives to Los Angeles).

Of course, the biggest media moguls of all live in the area too – Oprah Winfrey, Megan Markle and Prince Harry, and Ellen Degeneres and Portia De Rossi, have mansions/compounds there. The area also got loads of media attention when Travis Barker proposed to Kourtney Kardashian on a Montecito Beach, as seen on their new Hulu show. But perhaps SB’s most legendary inhabitant was Julia Child, who lived...
there after she retired and until her death. With the famous foodie back in the spotlight, thanks to a new HBO Max comedy and a child-themed TV cooking competition currently on the Food Network, it might be a good time to revisit some of her favorite places in Santa Barbara where she retired and spent the remainder of her days. Check out the Santa Barbara Culinary Experience’s detailed map to do just that, at sbce.events/julia-child-map.

MAIN STAYS
Air BnB’s will get you more privacy, but if you’re looking for hospitality, Santa Barbara hotels are there to serve. And there are deals to be had right now, too. Visit Santa Barbara (santabarbaraca.com) has a “Third Night Free” promotion now through September, with more than a dozen hotels and resorts participating, including a few of our top picks, some with L.A. ties.

The Mar Monte Hotel (marmontehotel.com) recently completed the final phase of its multimillion-dollar “reimagination,” and the result is an enchanting oasis, refreshed and renewed. The historic 1930s Vista Mar Monte has been embelished and transformed with new amenities and interior design touches by Los Angeles-based Beleco, with an open and airy lobby/living room area and library, opening out onto its courtyard. The Spanish-influenced setting also has been amplified in rooms, suites, eateries and bars, including the slick new Lido Café and the swanky Cal-Mediterranean Costa Kitchen & Bar (costas.B.com), both offering gorgeous oceanfront views while drinking and dining, especially during sunset hour. This is the spot for your romantic getaway.

Likewise, the Kimpton Canary Hotel (canarysantabarbara.com) has invested in its classy yet whimsical property, including cozy redesigned rooms, rooftop pool area, and a new bar and restaurant. About its restaur: Finch & Fork (finchandforkrestaurant.com) is a must visit while in town. The renovated space (also designed by Beleco) just reopened this past spring with a new look and fun menu from Executive Chef Craig Riker.

We spoke with him on our last visit and learned that his creativity goes way beyond the kitchen. Riker also is a professional musician, playing bass with the metallic rock outfit Deadsy (led by L.A.’s Elijah Blue Allman, son of Cher and Gregg Allman). He tells us he lives in L.A., attending Cor din Bleu in Pasadena and playing in bands including Simi Valley punks Strung Out, before joining Deadsy. He worked at the Montage Beverly Hills and Mastro’s in Malibu before moving to Santa Barbara, establishing himself, and his dishes at F&F do not disappoint. The Canary’s restaurant renovation is the first stage in an extensive hotel revamp from Kimpton, a brand Angelenos will recognize via a string of stylist stays, including the Everly, Palomar, Hotel Wilshire and the LaPeer.

Other top hotels worth checking out and in: the historic Hotel Santa Barbara (hotelsantabarbara.com) in the heart of downtown; Riviera Beach House (rivierabeachhouse.com) formerly Hotel Indigo, near the Funk Zone area (it was recently purchased by the family that owns the Culver Hotel in L.A.); and coming soon, Drift Santa Barbara (drifthotels.co) from TCM Hospitality, a trendy “tech-driven” hotel with properties in Cabo, Mexico and Nashville.

SB BITES AND BARS
When it comes to cuisine and cocktail culture, Santa Barbara stands formidable right alongside San Francisco and Los Angeles. SB has more than a dozen restaurants in the current Michelin Guide to California, and Wine Enthusiast just declared it “Wine Region of the Year.” In addition to Finch & Fork and Costa Kitchen, there’s a few more places that should be on your radar when you visit.

Lucky’s Steakhouse (lucky’s-steakhouse.com), also seen in a recent episode of Hulu’s The Kardashians, is tops for many locals’ special occasion dining list. The Montecito landmark occupies the former Montecito Bungalows on Highway 1, the original Pacific Coast Highway. It’s now considered Montecito’s “second living room,” which means celeb sightings are frequent. The white tablecloth, old Hollywood vibe (vintage photos line the walls) complements the steak and classic cocktail Musso & Franks-esque vibe, and the service is the best in the city.

For a more casual but no less tasty lunch or dinner option, we recommend Broad Street Oyster Company (broadstreetoyster.com), which originated in L.A. — Malibu beach to be exact. Known for its succulent lobster rolls, Christopher Tompkins’s colorful establishment was only opened in 2019, but it quickly became beloved for its lobster sandwich (served warm with butter or chilled with mayonnaise). The SB location opened earlier this year adding local sea urchin and oysters on the shell to the menu. We love the animated murals that line the walk in and its convenient location behind one of State Street’s best bars (see below).

Tiki enthusiasts will adore the tasty concoctions at the Shaker Mill (shaker-millSR.com), housed in the same building as Broad. Proprietor Brandon Ristaino also owns two other great bars in Santa Barbara, including The Good Lion (goodlioncocktails.com) and the more tropically minded Test Pilot (testpilotcocktails.com), but Shaker’s the most open and airy of the three, and with COVID still out there, that’s a concern for many of us. Whimsical patio-style furnishings and inventive drinks, such as the Miami Vice (part pina colada, part strawberry daiquiri served glass shell) or the Orange Sky (bourbon, orange, lemon, citrusy white ale, white buffalo orange marmalade) — $1 of each drink donated to White Buffalo Land Trust — make this atmospheric spot of fave to get shook.

We love a fancy cocktail spot, but as the author of the book Los Angeles’ Best Bars, we’d be remiss if we didn’t mention the un-fettered neighborhood joints where locals like to dwell. Check out the Sportsman’s Lounge (instagram.com/sportsmanlounge), the Jolly Tiger/ Roy’s (restaurantroy.com) where Jack Johnson got his start, and the best named ever Pickle Room, in SB’s old Chinatown, serving stiff drinks and a mix of deli and Asian snacks (www.threepickles.com).

If wine is your thing, consider the “Santa Barbara’s Urban Wine Trail,” your new alternative to a Napa visit. Made up of nearly 30 member wineries within walking distance of each other, new tasting rooms are constantly opening and moving around. Kunin Wines (kuninwines.com) known for sparkling rosés and exquisite cheese pairings, just opened a new tasting room at its Goleta winery; Frequency Wine Co. (frequencywines.com) moved to the up-and-coming Presidio Neighborhood; and Valley to the Sea Winery (valleytotheseawinery.com) opened in the Santa Barbara Public Market late last year. And don’t miss a chance to visit “The Funk Zone,” the ultimate tipsy stroll, where nearly every storefront is a tasting room. Notable wineries including Santa Barbara Wine, Montana de Oro and Valley to the Sea, SB’s Urban Wine Trail, “your new area of deli and Asian snacks.

UPCOMING SB EVENTS:
Old Spanish Days Fiesta — Santa Barbara’s Spanish heritage is paid homage to at this five-day fiesta, beginning this week. Aug. 3 to Aug. 7, at multiple locations. oldsandays-fiesta.org.

Pacific Pride Festival — After a two year hiatus due to COVID, this SB Pride event is back. Aug. 27, at Chase Palm Park. pacificpridefoundation.org.

21st Annual Open Studios Tour — Santa Barbara artists, 28 to be exact, provide open studio tours. Sept. 3 to Sept. 5, at multiple locations. santabarbarastudioartists.com.

29th annual Goleta Lemon Festival — The southern region of SB (Goleta) is known for its citrus fruit, so expect lots of lemon dishes, pie-eating contests, bake-offs and live music. The Goleta Fall Classic Car and Street Rod Show happens the same weekend. Sept. 24 and Sept. 25, at Girsh Park, Goleta. lemonfestival.com.

50th annual Santa Barbara Old-Time Fiddlers’ Festival has concerts, workshops, jamps, and an “instrument petting zoo” where the public play banjos, fiddles, spoons and other “old-time” instruments. Oct. 8, Rancho La Patera & Stow House, Goleta. idlersfestival.org.

Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival A Seaside rendezvous. Oct. 15, Santa Barbara Harbor. harborfestival.org Special thanks to Visit Santa Barbara (SantaBarbaraCA.com) for help with this story.

Check out the city’s latest COVID-19 restrictions and protocols at santabarbaraca.com/plan-your-trip/now-before-you-go/covid-19-information/.
In 2014, L.A.-based electronic musician Elohim had reached rockbottom. Struggling terribly with her mental health issues, including crippling anxiety, she had moved into a small cabin and would lie on the wooden floors and cry every morning. She was faced with a straight choice – fight or flight. She chose the former.

“I decided to fight the good battle,” she says. “I would get a job and then go to the studio, every day at around 5 p.m., and I would stay until 3 a.m. It was this really magical time looking back, because there were no expectations. I made whatever I, and it developed me as an artist and as a human being. I started playing and singing, and really starting to write about my struggles with mental health. That was when everything clicked. I released a song called ‘Xanax,’ which was me very bluntly speaking about my struggles with panic disorder, and the messages that I got were like ‘OK, there’s a greater purpose to doing this.’”

Elohim set about employing music as a form of therapy, writing songs with titles such as “Why Am I Like This?” and a series of EPs called Journey to the Center of Myself. The latter came out of a need to create during the pandemic.

“Right before everything went to shit, I was on the Group Therapy tour,” Elohim says. “I was selling out shows, doing meet and greets – it was amazing. And then I only got through about eight or nine of the actual shows, and that crushed me so much. I had all these plans – you have an album released ready a year in advance. What do we do as artists? All we can do is create. I felt really lucky to have music during that time. It felt like going back to basics. There was so much uncertainty, so I started creating so much music. My team was like, ‘We should put it all out,’ so that’s why we created this four part thing.”

The latest single is “Pastel Auras,” the most recent result of lockdown working. Her collaborator on the track is indie artist Yoke Lore.

“I come from a very artistic family, and my first big experience with music was at Hebrew school when I was little,” Lore says. “My family was sitting around a table, it was dusk, and we were lighting candles and singing ancient songs that people in my family have always sung. You could feel the power of it. I think I wanted to do that forever, after that. But yes, I started playing drums, and in college I joined the band Walk the Moon. I felt comfortable, which was a relief. It worked out well, and it must have been a blessed relief for an artist suffering with anxiety to create something so freeing, particularly after living through the pandemic.

“For me, my safe place is my home,” Elohim says. “That’s where I don’t have anxiety. But I had to push myself to walk out of my front door. So the pandemic was nice because I didn’t feel anxiety, but then I started feeling more sort of depression. Cut to a year and a half later of not leaving my house, first show back was Lollapalooza, 5 p.m. slot, and I was absolutely wrecked. The panic was taking over my whole being. So I got back into therapy. This year has been really hard for me and it’s been a constant battle – I’m just trying to work through it, honestly.”

Both artists are psyched to get this song and video out, and they both have shows and festivals planned for the summer. Flowers, it seems, conquer all.

Elohim and Yoke Lore’s “Pastel Auras” single and video are out now.
BLACKBOOK PRESENTS A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO PLEASURE AT SOTHEBY’S

A Book And Exhibition Celebrate The Dimensions Of Female Desire

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Mystical, delicate, ethereal; bold, brash, satisfied; abstract, symbolic, organic; seductive, whimsical, dangerous; empowering, funny, unsettling; intergenerational, inclusive, intimate; erotic, personal and political — featuring work by pioneering women artists from art history and today, A Woman’s Right To Pleasure offers a radical perspective on what it’s like to be female.

Currently the inspiration for a major show at Sotheby’s in Beverly Hills, before it was a hybrid exhibition, A Woman’s Right To Pleasure was a best-selling art book featuring some 80 artists and contributions from a host of writers. Like the book, the related exhibition explores how the female experience is inherently political, pushing back against the ways in which the power and freedom represented by female desire is objectified, shamed, and feared by various aspects of patriarchal society. The idea is that when women assert themselves in the Pleasuredome hierarchy, kingdoms tend to topple.

It’s not that men aren’t welcome in this equation, in fact there are some men in the show being very, um, attentive to their partners, courtesy of painter Alexandra Rubinstein — it’s that many women artists have each in their individual styles, mediums, and contexts felt called to undermine what Art History terms “the male gaze.” This can be understood as how the complex web of social and economic forces which have determined patriarchal social structures have expressed in, among other ways, the prevalence of museums filled with pictures of naked women made by men. Partly because women artists were rarely valued or platformed and partly because even if they were to be, it’s not as simple as a switcheroo wherein women would get to paint naked men and call it even — assuming that’s what women even wanted to do, which mostly it is not.

It’s when women turn such a gaze on each other and on themselves that the resetting of the power dynamics of desire become truly progressive and culturally subversive. But also, when women assert their right to claim and source their own pleasure and bodily autonomy — not to mention equal pay and more space on gallery walls and in executive conference rooms, or being able to walk down the street alone or, you know, be on Twitter — it can attract a five-alarm misogyny backlash. Well, those folks are not going to like this glorious project at all, not one bit.

“The recent overturning of Roe v. Wade only further solidifies this reality. In this context, pleasure is not only radical,” writes project Director Alexandra Weiss, “it’s imperative.”

The remarkably eclectic array of art in-
cludes explicit work that deals with the reality of women’s bodies (Marilyn Minter, Cecily Brown); abstract work that explores the fractal visual source code of everything (Louise Bourgeois, Loie Hollowell, Georgia O’Keeffe); witty and romantic work (Jessie Mackison, Emily Marie Miller); surrealist (Leonor Fini, Katherina Olschbaur) and diaristic (Nan Goldin) work; and work by several artists with no fucks left to give and a flair for the dramatic (Tracey Emin, Penny Slinger, Mary Beth Edelson). In painting, sculpture, photography, performance (documentation), and collage, and importantly across all the waves of feminism and even from the decades before the movement claimed that moniker, A Woman’s Right to Pleasure not only makes the case for equality in the libido as much as in everything else, it does so in leading by example.

A Woman’s Right To Pleasure contributors include: Nina Chanel Abney, Marina Abramović, Ghada Amer, Judith Bernstein, Louise Bourgeois, Cecily Brown, Judy Chicago, Renee Cox, Vaginal Davis, Tamara De Lempicka, Marlene Dumas, Tracey Emin, Mary Beth Edelson, Leonor Fini, Nan Goldin, Loie Hollowell, Jenny Holzer, Hayv Kahraman, Jesse Makinson, Marilyn Minter, Alice Neel, Georgia O’Keeffe, Katherina Olschbaur, Meret Oppenheim, Alexandra Rubinstein, Faith Ringgold, RIP Bambi, Jenny Saville, Carolee Schneemann, Tschabalala Self, Cindy Sherman, Penny Slinger, Mickalene Thomas, Betty Tompkins, Ellen Von Unwerth, Carrie Mae Weems, and many more. Essays, excerpts, epigraphs and commentary are by Erica Jong, Roxane Gay, Kathy Acker, Pussy Riot’s Nadya Tolokonnikova, Natasha Stagg and Stoya, Simone de Beauvoir, Eve Ensler, Betty Friedan, Audre Lorde, Anaïs Nin, Naomi Wolf, and others.

The book’s second edition is available now, and the exhibition is on view through August 12 in Beverly Hills and online; sothebys.com; blackbookpresents.com.
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Operations Analyst (City of Industry, CA): Analyze data gathered to support product mgmt. Create product data analysis life cycle, price/mktg reports using Python, acronyms. Create/maintain price control/product analysis models w/Toad Data Modeler, Spreadsheet Modeling. Analyze financial data, inventory to support budgeting & knowl of mktg acctg. Manage in Excel, SQL & other related, plus related exp. Send resume to HR, 50 Commercial St., New York, NY 10001. Send resumes to: P.Nunn, Holland America Line, 100 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 or PNunn@HollandAmericaGroup.com.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT** 2022-12300

The following person is doing business as COMPARTIR CATERING LLC 200 S Soto St Los Angeles, CA 90025. It is a California registered business entity. The person named below is doing business as above, and it is a fictitious business name and business formed on or after January 20, 2023, in Los Angeles, CA 90033. The business is conducted by an LLC. The date registered to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above is 01/02/2023. NOTICE: In accordance with Section 17920 of the Business and Professions Code, any person desiring to use the name for a business of the type described by the fictitious business name above must file a copy of the written statement below with the county clerk of the county in which the person is doing business. This statement must be maintained by the person doing business under the above fictitious business name in accordance with Section 17921 of the Business and Professions Code, including: AK, AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, MD, MO, MS, NC, ND, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, & WA. Any suitable combo of edu, training or exp is acceptable. Resumes to PNunn, Holland America Line, 450 Third Avenue W, Seattle, WA 98119 or PNunn@HollandAmericaGroup.com.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

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**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@jimfirm.com.
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