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JULIETTE LEWIS GETS
THE LICKS BACK TOGETHER

REGARDING HER
FEST RETURNS FOR
FOURTH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

Meet Future Memory Artist Bart Cooper

By Shana Nys Dambrot



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GO EDITORS' PICKS

ARTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

30 Years of NIA at New Image Art. Founded in 1994, New Image Art is an artist-run venue whose mission is to provide an inclusive cultural and curatorial platform, continuously exhibit the under-represented and cultivate new artistic possibilities. Chronically three decades of subversive contemporary art movements in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and beyond, this milestone show features more than 40 iconic artists, ranging from locally-adored West Coast artists such as Monica Garza, Sharif Farrag, and Umar Rashid to cult phenomenons such as Takashi Murakami, RETNA, Barry McGee, Ed Templeton, Matt Furie, and more. New Image Art has become known and valued for helping launch many noted contemporary artists—many of whom assemble for this most special of occasions. *7920 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood; Opening reception: Thursday, February 22, 6-9pm; On view through March 30; free; newimageartgallery.com.*

Mother Tongues and Zizipho Posw: Black Bounty at Southern Guild. Established in Cape Town in 2008 by Trevyn and Julian McGowan, SG represents contemporary artists from Africa and its diaspora, focusing on the continent's rich tradition of utilitarian and ritualistic art and contributions to global art movements. SG opens a new chapter of dynamic exchange with their inaugural Los Angeles presentations: *Mother Tongues*, a group show highlighting 25 exceptional artists; and *Black Bounty*, a solo show by South African sculptor Zizipho Posw. Moving between visible surfaces and interior states, the two opening exhibitions feature diverse forms of expression which is the heart of the gallery; exploring the preservation of culture, spirituality, identity, ancestral knowledge and ecology within our current landscape. *747 N. Western Ave., Melrose Hill; Opening reception: Thursday, February 22, 6-8pm; On view through April 27; free; southernguild.com.*



High Desert Art Fair
Alex Stoddard
Metamorphosis Interrupted I, 2017,
Archival Pigment Print
(Courtesy of Fahey Klein Gallery)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Hilbert Museum Grand Reopening at Chapman University. This beloved institution holds the distinction of being the only museum in the world committed to tracing the rich, iconic history of the Golden State from the 1900s to the present through works by leading California Scene artists and Hollywood studio artists and animators. Now its spaciouly reimagined expansion is finally ready for visitors to its striking new two-building ensemble offering 26 galleries for rotating displays of the more than 5,000 oils, watercolors, illustrations, drawings, pieces of movie production art and more in the growing Hilbert Collection. *167 N. Atchison St., Orange; Timed entry reservations beginning February 23; free; hilbertmuseum.org.*

Monica Mirabile: Guidance at Albert Projects.

One of an exciting crop of new galleries opening this month in Los Angeles, the inauguration of Albert Projects is a presentation of American painter and performance artist Monica Mirabile's first solo exhibition with the gallery, opening February 23. The debut solo exhibition of the renowned performance artist's oil paintings, *Guidance* features a new series of large-scale figurative works that employ beauty and wit to probe ideas of spirituality, death and the unknown. *2122 Berkeley Ave., Echo Park; Opening reception: Friday, February 23, 6-9pm; Performance event with Trinity Vigorsky, Friday, March 1; On view through*

March 23; free; instagram.com/Albert.Projects.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

High Desert Art Fair. The inaugural edition of the High Desert Art Fair, where the artistic spirit of the desert comes alive in a celebration of creativity, culture, and community, promises captivating artworks, artist talks, live performances, treats-based receptions, creative exercises, and random desert surprises. Works included span styles and genres, but all underscore the evolution of creative expression while emphasizing the contemporary relevance and creative diversity that contribute to the ongoing narrative of visual storytelling and experiential culture. *Multiple gallery and domestic locations in and around Flamingo Heights (take the 247 aka Old Woman Springs Rd turnoff out of Yucca Valley); Saturday-Sunday, February 24-25; free; highdesertartfair.com.*

Paul McCarthy & Benjamin Weissman: Cognitive Surge: Coach Stage at The Pit.

The Pit inaugurates their massive new Los Angeles location with a two-person show by artists who've been close friends for decades. Their respective work is unrestricted by preconception, generating images that expose bare truths which can be harrowing, enticing, and disarmingly relatable; and their proximity has fostered a prolific creative discourse resulting in countless artistic collaborations. Weissman and

McCarthy share an avid interest in the unconscious—often envisioned as a place inhabited by the abject, the grotesque, the surreal, the repressed, the crazed. But their works also point to the social, the shared, an awareness of the other, and a persistent need to communicate what one knows to be incommunicable. *3015 Dolores St., Atwater Village; Opening reception: Saturday, February 24, 5-8pm; On view through April 6; free; the-pit.la.*

Cédric Rivrain: Poussière (Dust) at Fitzpatrick Gallery.

The acclaimed Paris-based gallery winters in Los Angeles this week, with a new exhibition showcasing art that is doubly anchored in a domestic context. Firstly, by its layout, which takes up the bare walls of an empty house; and secondly, by its canvases—portraits, scenes, animals—almost all seen in interior settings like bedrooms or living rooms. The bareness of the exhibition space echoes that of the canvases, where one can barely distinguish anything but parquet flooring and curtained windows, in neutral rooms with a paradoxical intimacy. *2357 Hermits Glen, Laurel Canyon; Opening reception: Saturday, February 24, 2-8pm; On view through March 3; free; fitzpatrick.gallery.*

Rhett Baruch Art and Design X Good Naked Gallery: Terrestrial Aperture. Just in time for Frieze Week, Good Naked (NYC) and Rhett Baruch (L.A.) team up to present a



Danny Galieote
Beach Bevy

four-person exhibition celebrating visual pleasure and curiosity. Each of the eclectic cohort culls imagery from a combination of close looking and reverie as they explore formal and material play. In a moment of attention economy, these artists ask us to slow looking and delve deeper into a world of whimsical structures and tended surfaces. **6057 Melrose Ave., Hollywood; Opening reception: Saturday, February 24, 4-7pm; On view through March 31; free; instagram.com/rhett.baruch.design.**

Koplin del Rio: (Untitled #42) at Mixografia. Koplin Del Rio (nee Koplin Gallery) opened in 1982 in West Hollywood, and after evolutions and many exciting decades here, relocated to Seattle in 2016. Now a weeklong group exhibition pops up in Los Angeles, marking 42 years since they opened their doors. Loosely shaped around notions of continuum, lineage & adaptation, the exhibition will include work from long-time gallery artists such as Joan Brown, Kerry James Marshall, Robert Pruitt & Laurie Hogin, as well as artists from the Pacific Northwest who have joined their roster. Their Frieze Week sojourn is hosted by longtime friends and collaborators, the Mixografia studio family. **1419 E. Adams Blvd., downtown; Opening reception: Saturday, February**

24, 4-6pm; On view through March 2; free; koplindelrio.com/1982-now.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Nick Taggart: Art School Portraits from 1974 at Gallucci Tull. The gallery's inaugural exhibition is a series of masterfully rendered, gloriously dated, earnestly cringe graphite drawings by UK-born, LA-based artist Nick Taggart. Comprising eight never-before-exhibited works on paper completed during the artist's final weeks as an undergraduate at Torquay School of Art, three years ahead of his move to Los Angeles, one drawing is a self-portrait; the others depict Taggart's colleagues. The exhibition takes place in a geodesic dome on the site of the Encina Artist Residency. **21658 Encina Rd., Topanga Canyon; Opening reception: Sunday, February 25, 1-4pm; On view through March 3; free; galluccitull.com.**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Chloe Wise: Told A Vision at Brain Dead Studios. International gallery Almine Rech presents the Los Angeles premiere of *Told A Vision* (2023), the directorial debut of multidisciplinary artist Chloe Wise. Originally created for Parcours, Art Basel, the 15-minute film replicates the sensation of channel surfing, the remote in an unknown

holder's hand. Moving at a crescendoing pace, fragments of commercials, marked with an uncanny visual familiarity and authoritative language advertising nothing in particular, form together a patchwork contemplation of consumerism and how it relates to the self. The film will screen on a loop all evening, and will be followed by a Q&A with the artist and comedian Eric Wareheim, and a cocktail reception in the outdoor patio. **611 N. Fairfax., West Hollywood; Monday, February 26, 7:30pm; free; alminerech.com.**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

SPRING/BREAK Art Show. NYC and L.A.'s curator-driven art fair returns, bringing its uber-chic, totally feral experience back to Los Angeles. With over 50 curatorial projects, 70 curators and 200+ artists, SPRING/BREAK is a destination for art enthusiasts to experience contemporary art by established and emerging artists, each of whom has received free exhibition space to do with as they please. The fair will also feature a new Artist Spotlight section, an initiative wherein artists submit directly for a salon show curated by fair founders Ambre Kelly & Andrew Gori. Special programs and events extend to music, performance, games, AI tarot, a design-

infused installation from The Street and the Shop, and more. **5880 Adams Blvd., Culver City; Opening night: Tuesday, February 27, 5-9pm; Fair Hours Wednesday-Sunday, February 28 - March 3; \$30-\$100; spring-breakartshow.com.**

Materia Perpetua at Galerie Philia. A nomadic program anchored by the gallery's permanent spaces in Geneva, Mexico City, New York, and Singapore takes the form of group and solo exhibitions in unique locations around the world. Each transient exhibition features unique works by emerging and established designers and artists. For Frieze Week, this means their inaugural presentation in Los Angeles. Featuring a collection of limited-edition onyx works by ten of the gallery's international designers, the exhibition will be staged in the striking studio of designer Giampiero Tagliaferri, who will also create a one-off piece for the occasion. More than a display of creative skills and in line with Philia's distinct philosophical approach, the inaugural collection delves into the concept of eternity and its paradoxical origins. **2235 Hyperion Ave., Silver Lake; Open February 27 - March 3; free; galerie-phia.com.**

Izumi Kato at Perrotin. International gallery

**Felix Art Fair
X Dover Street Market**



Perrotin inaugurates their new Los Angeles location with work by Japanese artist Izumi Kato. Both primitive and pop, the simple geometries and biomorphic shapes Kato uses to compose his distinctive figures seem to nod at the elemental forms found in petroglyphs and cave paintings, while also channeling the character-driven aesthetic of contemporary culture. He uses timeless natural materials such as wood and stone alongside manufactured creations such as

plastic and vinyl. Kato employs the most primal of tools—his own hands—to paint his canvases, while simultaneously experimenting with forms of production that only modern technology can enable. *5036 W. Pico Blvd., Mid-Wilshire; On view February 27 - March 23; free; perrotin.com.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Felix Art Fair at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Everyone's favorite poolside cabana-based art fair with a heart of Old Hollywood glamor and a penchant for selfie-taking, Felix Los Angeles 2024 will feature over 60 eclectic exhibitors from around the world, including galleries from Berlin, Bucharest, Chicago, Dallas, Kyiv, London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Turin, and Montreal with works to discover, covet, attainably collect, and aspire to. The sixth iteration of the fair will also present a debut partnership with leading global retailer Dover Street Market. Tip: plan your visit around a boozy patio lunch to get the full Los Angeles experience. *7000 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; February 28 - March 3; \$75-\$100; felixfair.com.*

MUSIC

FEBRUARY 23-29
Lizzy Borden

Whisky A Go Go

Like Marilyn Manson (pre scandal), or old school Alice Cooper, Lizzy Borden is the name of both the band and the frontman. The band formed in 1983 and balanced on that line between heavy metal and glam rock, with a horror edge that fans of those aforementioned artists would enjoy. 2018 saw the release of *My Midnight Things*, Lizzy Borden's first new album in 11 years since 2007's *Appointment With Death*. It's great that the band is still active, while in the live environment they still give their everything. Sniffers, the Guitar and Whiskey Club, and Black Star Sinners will also perform. *7 p.m. on Friday, February 23 at the Whisky, \$30, whiskyagogo.com.*

**Machine Head/Fear Factory
The Bellwether**

What a double bill this is, from the mid-'90s second wave of thrash. Alongside Pantera and Sepultura, Machine Head were the big players in that scene. Fear Factory has an industrial lean, bit still — this is a gig that will get memories flowing. The latter has a new singer and guitarist Dino Cazares told is in 2021 that, "the rest of this year is dedicated to the singer, whoever we choose. We're also going to be releasing a few other things here that we've worked on, and announcing a tour for early next year." Orbit Culture and Gates to Hell also perform. *6:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 at the Bellwether,*

\$38, thebellwetherla.com.

**Sizzy Rocket
The Virgil**

At the end of 2022, we included Sizzy Rocket in our Holiday Gift Guide. We said, "Art-punk provocateur Sizzy Rocket has just released her new album *Live Laugh Love*, although it's 2020's third studio effort *Anarchy* that she sent us on lovely red vinyl. The record is a journey for the listener, as it apparently was for the artist. Rocket is a rising star on the punk scene — she certainly has a sound all of her own and she's not afraid to ruffle few feathers." We expect plenty of feather-ruffling at the Virgil. Mel4ever will also perform, and Pennywild will DJ. *9 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 at the Virgil, \$10-\$15, thevirgil.com.*

**Cannons
Troubadour**

Having performed at the Forum on KROQ's Almost Acoustic Christmas bill at the end of last year, Cannons are fully warmed up for this Troubadour show. Michelle Joy and the boys massaged the crowd through an eight song set that was simultaneously hypnotic and energizing," we wrote of that Forum show. "'Hurricane' and 'Bright Lights' were highlights, but there were no lowlights." Valida will also perform. *7 p.m. on Sunday, February 25 at the Troubadour, troubadour.com* [L]

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NEWS

GRAFFITI BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN TO BE CLEANED AND SECURED BY CITY

After Weeks Of Dozens Of Graffiti Artists Challenging One Another To Vandalize The Abandoned Oceanwide Plaza, The L.A. City Council Voted To Take Measures In Cleaning The Property And Building A Barrier

BY ISAI ROCHA



RINGO CHIU/
SOPA IMAGES/
SHUTTERSTOCK

The Los Angeles City Council passed a motion to have the infamously spray-painted skyscraper cleaned and secured.

The owners of the half-built Oceanwide Plaza in downtown L.A. were given until last weekend to take action on their own, but with no response, the city began a \$3.8 million process that involves the hiring of private security and installation of 10-foot metal walls in the building's perimeter.

Plans to reinforce the building were first presented by Councilman Kevin de Leon, suggesting the city fund the cleanup and fencing around the building project and then forward the costs

to Oceanwide Holdings, the Chinese business that owned and abandoned the building project.

"In the event that they don't do it, we'll do it for them and we'll stick them with the bill," de Leon said.

For weeks, graffiti artists have made it their mission to climb the set of buildings and tag their aliases and or crew names. Various local taggers have livestreamed their efforts, finding ways to evade security and police.

LAPD has allocated an around-the-clock presence near the structures, watching for taggers who gather and attempt to make their way inside to continue the vandalism.

In early February, the LAPD began conducting building searches, looking for trespassers and making arrests.

"The building had recently been the target of vandalism, trespass, burglary and other crimes," the LAPD said. "Due to the dangerous nature of the building under construction, and the crimes being committed, the Department worked with building management to obtain a trespass order."

The hiring of private security would be in lieu of the police presence that stood by the building for multiple weeks.

Councilman de Leon said the city will continue discussing further action, should Oceanwide Holdings continue the building's neglect.

ALLEGED STREET TAKEOVER ORGANIZER ARRESTED IN PARAMOUNT

A man allegedly responsible for organizing some of L.A. County's most prominent "street takeovers" was arrested in his Paramount home.

Erick Romero Quintana, 20, allegedly used social media to put together multiple takeover events throughout Los Angeles County.

"This organizer has coordinated events throughout Southern California that have not only resulted in large-scale takeovers but also smash-and-grab robberies, vehicle thefts, and other violent crimes, including murder," LAPD media relations said. "This arrest is significant not only for the City of Los Angeles but also for the Southern California region."

Quintana was arrested in his Paramount home after officers served a search warrant at 5 a.m., February 7.

With the arrest outside the LAPD's jurisdiction, the Street Racing Task Force teamed up with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). While the task force specializes in illegal street racing, street takeovers are a different phenomenon that has recently hit Los Angeles.

Street takeovers consist of multiple cars and crowds of people blocking the passage of an intersection. Then, in the middle of the intersection, cars often peel into donuts, power slides, and burnouts, creating massive clouds of smoke in front of the crowds. It is not unusual for hundreds to gather at these events, with police accusing Quintana of drawing these people to specific locations using the power of his more than 70,000 followers.

Videos have often been shared to local social media accounts, highlighting crowd members struck by cars, members engaging in looting after the events, and, at times, fights breaking out.

In December 2022, a 24-year-old woman was struck by a car and killed at

an illegal street takeover event in Hyde Park.

On January 29, a shooting occurred at a street takeover event in the Compton area, with four people hospitalized for what were described as minor injuries.

It is not clear if either of those takeovers were organized by Quintana.

Quintana was booked and released from custody at the LASD Paramount station and faces multiple felony charges.

MAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR SCHOOL BOMB THREATS

The man responsible for multiple bomb threats to Los Angeles schools, pleaded guilty to a federal charge.

Oklahoma native Marcus Jamal Sanchez, 45, was accused of calling in to L.A. schools in early 2022 and threatening harm with fire and explosives.

"Sanchez put children, teachers, and staff at risk through his reckless and irresponsible actions," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said in a release by the state Department of Justice. "Schools should be safe havens for our kids, and my office will use the force of federal law – when necessary – to prosecute individuals who threaten the educational safety of our young people."

The first bomb threats were received on February 28 of that year, and were made to five separate L.A. public schools. Two of those schools were of elementary age, two of middle school age and one high school.

Nearly two months later threats were made by Sanchez on April 27 and April 28, this time with an additional threat of a school shooting.

"Stop playing games, you know who this is. I am going to shoot the school. I know the kids are there," transcripts of one of the calls said.

At the time of the threats, the schools were placed on lockdown while L.A. School police investigated the validity of the threats.

For the federal charge of telephoning bomb threats, Sanchez faces up to 10 years in a federal prison. His hearing will take place June 7 and Sanchez will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Staton.

"The depraved act of making death threats to vulnerable schoolchildren is incomprehensible to most and will not be tolerated by the FBI, nor the American people," Amir Ehsaei, Acting Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office said. "When threats such as these are reported, they must always be treated as credible and so they continue to drain valuable resources from law enforcement at the expense of the taxpayers who fund them." [E]

REGARDING HER FEST RETURNS FOR FOURTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Regarding Her Festival returns in March to support women-owned and led food and beverage businesses during Women's History Month. Many of the festival's events will raise funds for RE:Her's member programs, like RE:Her Academy, member workshops, and programming for women leaders and decision-makers within food and beverage businesses in Los Angeles.

Founded by women chefs and restaurant owners in 2020 to support women in food and beverage impacted by COVID-19, the organization has become a talent incubator and mentorship organization that champions more than 1,000 women entrepreneurs and leaders in the food and beverage industry. The Regarding Her Accelerator Academy helps meet the critical business needs confronted by new entrepreneurs and provides education, community, and financial resources.

Kicking things off will be the Los Angeles Wine and Food Festival, with new events being added daily:

Friday, March 1 – Sunday, March 3 Los Angeles Wine & Food Festival

Participating members include Béù, Caribbean Soul Kitchen, East Side Cheesecake, Holy Basil, Jame Enoteca, Lady & Larder, Lodge at Malibu, Ronan, Uli's Gelato and more.

Saturday, March 2 Women Who Rock – Female-fronted Bands with Hotville Chicken and Sad Girl Creamery at Benny Boy Brewery

Enjoy this Hotville Fried Chicken and beer pairing experience with special guests Sad Girl Creamery. Get ready for a night of rock 'n' roll rebellion and unbridled energy with a powerhouse lineup of female-fronted bands including rock 'n' roll, surf pop, indie, punk and grunge.

Monday, March 4 – Monday, March 25 RE:Her Female Chef Collab Dinner Series – various dates

A dinner series focused on showcasing the female culinary talent behind your favorite restaurants in Los Angeles. Restaurants include 1010 Wine and Events, Amiga Amore, Bridgetown Roti, Caldo Verde, Cassia, Cobi's, Dulan's, Fishing with Dynamite, Girl and the Goat, Hatchet Hall, Hotville Chicken, Mozza, My 2 Cents, Pasjoli, Rossoblu, Yangban, and more to come.

Saturday, March 9 RE:Her Comedy Night at The Crow, Santa Monica

A comedy show fundraiser at the female-owned comedy club, The Crow, featuring female comics and dinner by Xuntos, Superfine Playa and Guerrilla Tacos. Drinks are provided by Best



Coast Beverages, NoAlchCo and more.

Thursday, March 14 ROSE PREVITE X CALDO VERDE for RE:Her

Chef Suzanne Goin and her team at Caldo Verde at the Downtown LA Proper Hotel welcome Rose Previte to collaborate on a four-course dinner featuring dishes from her Maydan Cookbook, in support of Re:Her.

Monday, March 18 FLOUR FIESTA

A Sourdough Bread & Flour Tortilla Class at Joxelito's Tujung featuring Backdoor Bakery.

Thursday, March 21 HAM PARTY!

Join two of LA's celebrated wine professionals for a pop-up they've wanted to do since meeting over a piece of ham eight years ago. HAM! NOMADICA WINE! GREAT TUNES! And some of Nicole and Kristin's favorite pairings by

Chef Asheligh Retzloff.

Friday, March 22 Paella Mexicana: Casa Vega X Gasolina

An epic Spanish Mexican Paella Party at Casa Vega.

Saturday, March 23 Cultural Cuisine Queens at Cuernavaca's Grill

Featuring dishes by Cuernavaca's Grill, Qusqo Bistro, Jitlada, Zingos Tacos, Yuccas, and Boujie Crab.

March 1 – March 31 – various dates Regarding Her Mini Marts

Your favorite women-owned food and drink products will be sold at pop-up markets at Laidrey Coffee Roasters, Carla's Fresh Market and Hotcakes Bakes.

New events are being added daily and will be listed with details on how to attend and participate at www.regardingherfood.org or follow on Instagram @ [regardingherfood](https://www.instagram.com/regardingherfood).



MUSIC

LICK THIS!

Juliette Lewis Gets The Licks Back Together

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

Time spent in the company of renaissance woman Juliette Lewis is never time wasted. Even over the phone, the singer/actress/all-rounder enters the conversation with a level of energy that is not only infectious but inspiring. It's near-impossible not to surf that wave. It's also tough not to ask

her questions about Mallory Knox, Audrey Griswold, Iron Maven and Natalie Scatorcio, but we stuck to the music.

It helps that her band, the Licks, is genuinely good. She's far from the only Hollywood star to give the music game a go, but we can't think of anyone better. At least in recent times. Keanu

Reeves, Johnny Dep, Jared Leto, Keifer Sutherland, Dennis Quaid, Adam Goldberg, even Steve Martin, all have given it a go. Depp even has rock icons Alice Cooper and Joe Perry in his Hollywood Vampires. But none can match the raw rock 'n' roll brilliance, the punky energy, the fucking *songs* that the Licks offer.

That said, it's been way too long since 2006's *Four on the Floor* album, and the shows are few and far between. As a result, when the Licks *do* play out, each show feels like an event.

"You literally took the words out of my mouth," Lewis says. "We're an event band. It's an experience. It's a happening. And we're not interested in touring like we once did. All the guys from the Licks are in other bands. So it was so hard to get us all in town. And this was just a test. It was like, let's see, let me just test the water. And we're playing punk-sized venues. Yeah, so

as middle-agers that are fiery rock-n-rollers, that's what we're into. We're not into getting on a bus for four months, like we once did."

While it's always a treat to see the Licks live, playing the old material, the prospect of new songs is a thrill. In these most turbulent of times, what will Lewis have to say? Thankfully, we might not have to wait long to find out.

"It's so weird, being in this time," Lewis says. "What's weird about it is, because being an independent, creative person, everything's done for the love of it. It's pure love and expression. I'm working with Brad Shultz of Cage the Elephant. They were working on their record for the last two years. I go to Nashville and I've been steadily getting closer to having an EP done, and Brad is producing it. I'll have the vocals done by the end of March and I should have some new music this year. But again, everything is on our own terms.



they were, too, over on the West Coast anyway. We have two festivals that are happening in June and then October, and I'll have new music then. But we're just going to do what we do, which is get exhilarated and your blood pumping and make you feel good about life and living, which is absolutely what we need to do."

Besides the love of the music, the Licks have more important reasons for throwing themselves into these shows. Bassist Jason Womack was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer, and he has been through chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. He still has some way to go.

"He's still getting chemo, but so some of the funds will go to help him pay his medical bills," Lewis says. "(Here is his GoFundMe). I get teary-eyed because you have to embrace who's here now and we give each other so much life and love. I'm happy to help him in any way. So that was really the impetus of getting together. Womack loves this band number one, and we love him."

After these gigs, the Licks will be looking ahead to festival season.

"We have one in October in Sacramento - Aftershock," Lewis says. "It's with the Foo Fighters. Some old friends. A lot of rockers on the bill. So we're gonna play. It's fun to do things on one's own terms and to see if people are in to that with us. I aim to please, so I think we're just gonna find more opportunities to get together and play."

Juliette & the Licks perform at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Teragram Ballroom. [L]

I feel like people have a short attention span. I'm just doing an EP - probably five to seven songs. Awesome, but killer, killer songs."

We don't doubt it. Killer songs have been the Licks' bread and butter for over two decades. And while Lewis' name is front and center, the Licks is a genuine band. A collaborative effort. Guitarist Todd Morse has been with Lewis and the Licks from the 2003 beginnings, while bassist Jason Womack, rhythm guitarist Kemble Walters and drummer Ed Davis have all been in the band since 2006. That's 18 years of this line-up, which, even given the hiatuses, is impressive.

"I call them the Licks because, us together, there's nothing quite like it," Lewis says. "We developed this chemistry, for better or worse, from all the band dynamics that happen when you write music and tour and live in small spaces together for years. I've never been able to match that chemistry. We just have a crazy energy we've had to acknowledge."

While the new songs are nearly done, there's still some pending work to do with the lyrics. Still, Lewis assures us that they're fire.

"There's one song called 'Satellite



Communication," she says. "That's a purely angsty, post-pandemic song. It's just really powerful. But lyrically, I can't totally answer that question because that's my homework. I've got to finish my lyrics and then we're doing vocals in March.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, Juliette & the Licks perform at the Teragram

Ballroom, part of a mini run of dates. Don't expect any new songs, but there will be some surprises.

"There'll be songs that we have never played before," Lewis says. "Old songs. There'll be a couple of new covers. But again, these three shows were just to say, 'Hey, is anybody interested?' Because we are and then people said

CANNABIS

THC DESIGN'S MARLON COBURN TALKS CELEBRATING REPRESENTATION

We Chatted With The Design CEO Marlon Coburn About His Journey And Black Representation In The Cannabis Industry

BY JIMI DEVINE



THC Design's CEO Marlon Coburn reminds us there are various paths for communities of color on their way to the top of the industry.

When it comes to Black History Month and cannabis, much of the time the spotlight deservingly finds its way to Social Equity operators who beat the odds to make it. Coburn is an excellent example of another way people from the communities impacted the hardest by enforcement can take the reins of the industry itself. This is also an argument to be made that given the scale of THC Design's operations, Coburn is now one of the most prominent Black voices in cannabis with actual product-touching experience, given his start as a compliance guy.

Coburn describes his pre-THC Design days as being in health care from college to cannabis.

"I was doing all health care, mostly labs, and then I got into pharmaceuticals. And yeah, I was doing the whole normal, I guess climbing-the-ladder normal stuff," Coburn told L.A. Weekly.

"I was always in compliance. So my background was all SOPs, making sure the business is operating compliantly whether it's day-to-day operations, safety, all the above, licensing, all that stuff."

Coburn enjoyed the work and wasn't necessarily looking to leave. Coburn said he was on a trajectory, while it wasn't an exciting one, he knew he was on solid footing for the future. That changed when he got a message on LinkedIn in the fall of 2018.

"But back in the day, there was a little bit of the spammy stuff but nowhere near like how it is now. I think I would have missed any opportunity that comes through LinkedIn today," Coburn said of the original recruitment letter from FlowerHire. "They hit me up on there. They're like, hey we're recruiting for this cannabis company. They're looking for someone to run all of their compliance. Would you be interested in talking, and I was like, first, I didn't think it was real."

After letting it sit for a few days, Coburn looked into the company. He realized the offer was legit and decided



to give them a call. They gave him the whole breakdown about this legacy, LA, cannabis brand that's been around doing it forever. But they're really trying to make sure everything's good on the legal side, and they need help.

He would end up getting interviewed by THC Design's president Tom Shaw who had previously served as Goodwill of Southern California's CFO.

"I go in for my first interview with him, and we hit it off right away. It was just like the vibes were there. And one of the things he said that really stuck with me was how many times you have the opportunity to be a part of a brand-new industry," Coburn said of the meeting. "And I was like, yeah, I likely would never have this opportunity again. And also as I was someone passionate about cannabis, it seemed to just fit perfectly."

He thought about it for a week or so. He told THC Design to give him some time to talk to his family.

"And that was my first realization of how deep stigma is," Coburn said laughing.

Coburn pointed to the evolution of cannabis that was happening in 2018 when convincing his wife. It just became legal at the beginning of that year. Coburn argues it was still fresh for most people in California, if you weren't actually in the trenches doing the hard work on the regulatory side.

Some of his peers would start to show biases he wouldn't have expected. And he knew it was a risky career move from his straight-edge health care career that was going well, but it was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

"As soon as I got there. You know, I saw the cultivation. I did a tour of the cultivation facility. I saw all the operations. I saw the people that are working there, and it just felt this energy, I felt, I felt like there was a good, good vibe," Coburn said. "The team seemed like they were really, really into each other. And I had this, you know, right from the beginning, I felt like we all were kind of in this thing together."

A new thing they had to figure out

together. The transition would take about four months and he started at THC Design in March 2019 as director of compliance.

Coburn believes as boring as compliance may be, it helps you to learn every aspect of the business because you have to go through and understand, at least to a certain extent, a surface level of how things are done, and the way they should be done from a compliance standpoint. Then finding ways to get around all the regulations and the confusion.

"So I learned a lot in my first few months about cannabis because I had to go dive right into how you do each thing at the company," Coburn said.

Black cannabis entrepreneurs have had a rough few years. Locally, the community as a whole lost millions sitting on properties in LA as the city worked to figure out the social equity program. It was such a shitshow, it makes you want to celebrate its survivors that much harder. We asked Coburn how he balances celebrating his success and proof it's possible with the wider community's misfortune.

"I definitely don't hate. I think that that is a very flawed system in so many ways," Coburn said. "I spent a lot of my first few months at THC Design going to those DCR meetings every month and realizing why everyone was banging their head against the wall because none of it was actually falling into place the way that they intended it to. It's a challenge on the social equity side and I applaud everyone that's gone through it. It's so tough and then finding partners, it's hard to find partners that you trust no matter what the game is, but we're talking about giving ownership up and then being in control of all that it is. It is not an easy thing to do."

Coburn is happy to provide the representation that allows younger Black people to see what's possible for them in cannabis, but at times it can feel a little tricky, given he is an introvert by nature. He admits that was a lot easier as a compliance guy than as a CEO, but he's coming out of his shell a bit as this interview shows.

"Much easier. I could just kind of dive back into the couch and not really be the center of attention," Coburn said. "But I think representation matters a lot. And I've learned more and more, I do need to start talking about some of the successes that I've had, and some of my peers have had celebrating them. I mean, to me, that's what Black History Month is, right? We're always going back and reflecting and celebrating some of these achievements."

You can find THC Design products all over California. [A]

ART

MEET FUTURE MEMORY ARTIST BART COOPER

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

SELF LOVE
Bart Cooper, 2022



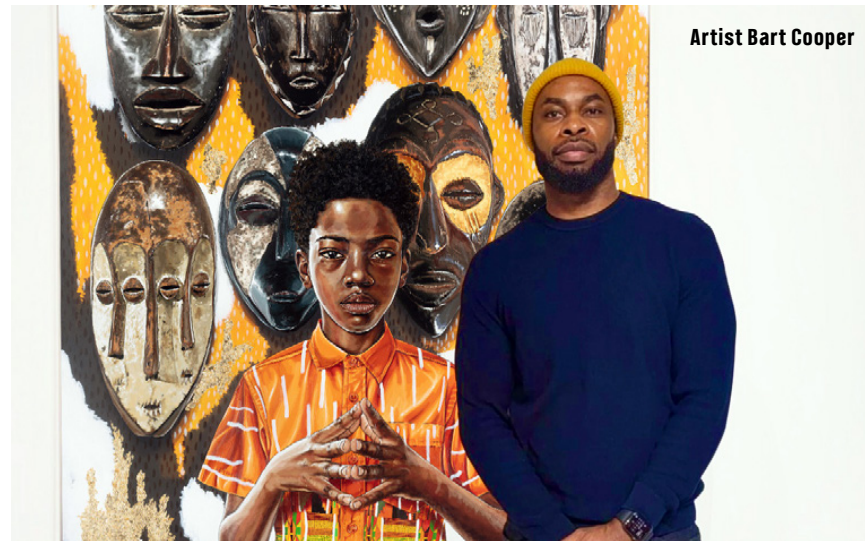
Mixed media artist Bart Cooper makes fine, luminous paintings with a regal, ancestral, aspirational quality. Profoundly affected by his early years growing up in Liberia, his family's immigration to America in flight from civil war when he was just six, and the myriad ways in which those instilled West African traditions and cultural sensibilities interact with the American culture in which he thrived, Cooper went on to pursue fine art, sculpture, and graphic design. In his centering of compelling figures within emotional and symbol-rich, lavishing chromatic portraiture, Cooper transmutes a sense of power, radiance, and timeless, glorious groundedness across

his depictions of cultural icons and ordinary people alike. His work can currently be seen in *Future Memory* through February 22 at the Marks Art Center in Palm Desert—an epic group exhibition curated by Dot Red and Forecast Foundation that takes as its premise the need for rest, respite, uplift, and diverse visions of Black joy amid the struggle for a better world.

L.A. WEEKLY: When did you first know you were an artist?

BART COOPER: Art was something that I always seem to be pulled to since the age of three. I did not take it seriously until the age of 15.

What is your short answer to people



which taught and mentored me to raise the bar in my artistry.

Why do you live and work in L.A., and not elsewhere?

Living and working in L.A. I believe is a playground for creatives. Along with this beautiful weather it keeps me in a creative mode.

When is/was your current/most recent/next show or project?

My current show titled *The Purple Series* is currently on display in Brentwood at Fathom Gallery.

What artist living or dead would you most like to show or work with?

I would have to go with Norman Rockwell.

Do you listen to music while you work? If so, what?

I most definitely do. I listen to every genre from old to new. But mostly something that goes along with the feeling of the vision of what I'm painting.

Website & IG:

bartcooperart.com
@B_Art1

LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

Operations Manager: Bachelor's Degree in Any Major req. \$64,522/yr, F/T, Resume to Eunyoung Kim, Red Straw Century City, Inc., 10250 Santa Monica Blvd. STE 2395, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Senior Site Reliability Engineer:

Bachelor's in Computer Science or Computer Engineering or related major plus two yrs of wk exp req'd. Wage: \$93,330/yr. Mail resume to: Krafton Americas, Inc., 1601 Cloverfield Blvd., N. Tower, 5th Fl., Ste. 5000, Santa Monica, CA 90404, Attn: H. Yoo.

Fashion Designer: Sketch rough and detailed drawings of apparel. Req'd: Associate in Fashion Design or related. \$52,978/yr. Mail resume: Wellmade, Inc., 2200 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Accessory Designer: Req'd: BA degree in Fashion Design or related field. Resume: Jin Hwa Trading, Inc. 1615 S Los Angeles St. LA CA 90015

LEGAL

Summons in a Civil Action UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT For the Central District of California

Civil Action No.: 2:23-cv-08630-JFW (SKX)

CHIPPENDALES USA, LLC, Plaintiff(s)
v.
CHRISTIAN W. BANERJEE, STRIPPENDALES CORPORATION, STRIPPENDALES LLC, and STRIPPENDALES69 LLC Defendant(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)
Christian W. Banerjee
1924 8 th Avenue, #9
Los Angeles, CA 90018

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Evan S. Nadel, Esq.
KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP
Two Embarcadero Center,
Suite 1900
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 576-0200
Email: ENadel@kilpatricktownsend.com

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.
Date: October 13, 2023
/s/ by: Clerk of the Court

LA WEEKLY Bulletin

Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC

