

Essential Arts & Culture: Kusama-palooza, Getty Center's birthday, censored Hollywood public art

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By Carolina A.
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"Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" lands at the Broad museum this weekend. The show also features her sculptures. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

At the Broad, it's all about infinity. A key Los Angeles institution marks two decades of existence. And a work by Erika Rothenberg in Hollywood is censored in the wake of the sexual harassment scandals. I'm **Carolina A. Miranda**, staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, with the week's essential arts and culture everything:

Kusama's infinite best

It's on, Los Angeles! Artist **Yayoi Kusama's** Infinity Mirror Rooms have landed at the **Broad museum** and Times reporter **Deborah Vankin** got a sneak peek. The Japanese artist is known for her psychedelic, repetition-based work that toy with color, form and perception. "I believe that people are attracted by the infinite mysterious beauty that the artwork has," **Kusama** tells Vankin. [Los Angeles Times](#)

Looking into "Infinity Mirrored Room — Love Forever" (1994) at the Broad museum.

Looking into "Infinity Mirrored Room — Love Forever" (1994) at the Broad museum. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

The Getty Center at 20

This fall, the **Getty Center** marks two decades in Brentwood. Times architecture critic **Christopher Hawthorne** looks at how the museum — set in architectural isolation on top of a hill — has launched programs such as **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA** that allow its presence to be felt all over the city. "It has," he writes, "threaded itself into the contemporary cultural life of Los Angeles and Southern California." [Los Angeles Times](#)



The Getty Center, overlooking the 405 Freeway in Los Angeles. (Los Angeles Times)

Plus, **Hawthorne** has a look at the **Natural History Museum's** plans for a makeover in **Exposition Park** by the Los Angeles firm **Frederick Fisher and Partners Architects**. [Los Angeles Times](#)

Pacific Standard Time happenings

And since we're on the subject of **PST: LA/LA**, here's what's doing in all things Los Angeles and Latin America:

Times classical music critic **Mark Swed** has been tuning into the "**CDMX**" music festival at **Walt Disney Disney Concert Hall** — featuring **Los Angeles Philharmonic** performances of work by contemporary Mexican composers (such as **Diana Syrse** and **Arturo Márquez**), as well as collaborations with indie darling **Natalia Lafourcade** and rockers **Café Tacvba**. The topline? The future, writes **Swed**, is in the hands of the women. [Los Angeles Times](#)



Gustavo Dudamel and singer Natalia Lafourcade at the opening concert of CDMX. (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)

Times contributor **Tim Greiving** reports on the evening of music devoted to **Mexican film scores** — which featured emblematic music from the silent era to the present. [Los Angeles Times](#)

And The Times' **James Reed** reviews the **Café Tacvba/LA Phil** match-up. The show, he reports, got cooking when the band transformed **Disney Hall** into a rock arena. [Los Angeles Times](#)

In the visual arts department, Times reviewer **Sharon Mizota** writes about **Clarissa Tossin's "Ch'u Mayaa,"** a video on view at the **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery** that toys with the Mayan themes that inspired the architecture of **Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House**. [Los Angeles Times](#)



A still from Clarissa Tossin's "Ch'u Mayaa" ("Maya Blue") at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. (Clarissa Tossin)

She also has a look at **"Video Art in Latin America"** at LAXART, where **José Alejandro Restrepo**'s rotting banana grove installation speaks to corporate greed. [Los Angeles Times](#)

In the meantime, I got a gander at **ProyectosLA**, a pop-up installation by 18 Latin American-focused galleries at a warehouse in **Chinatown**, featuring works both historic and contemporary. [Los Angeles Times](#)

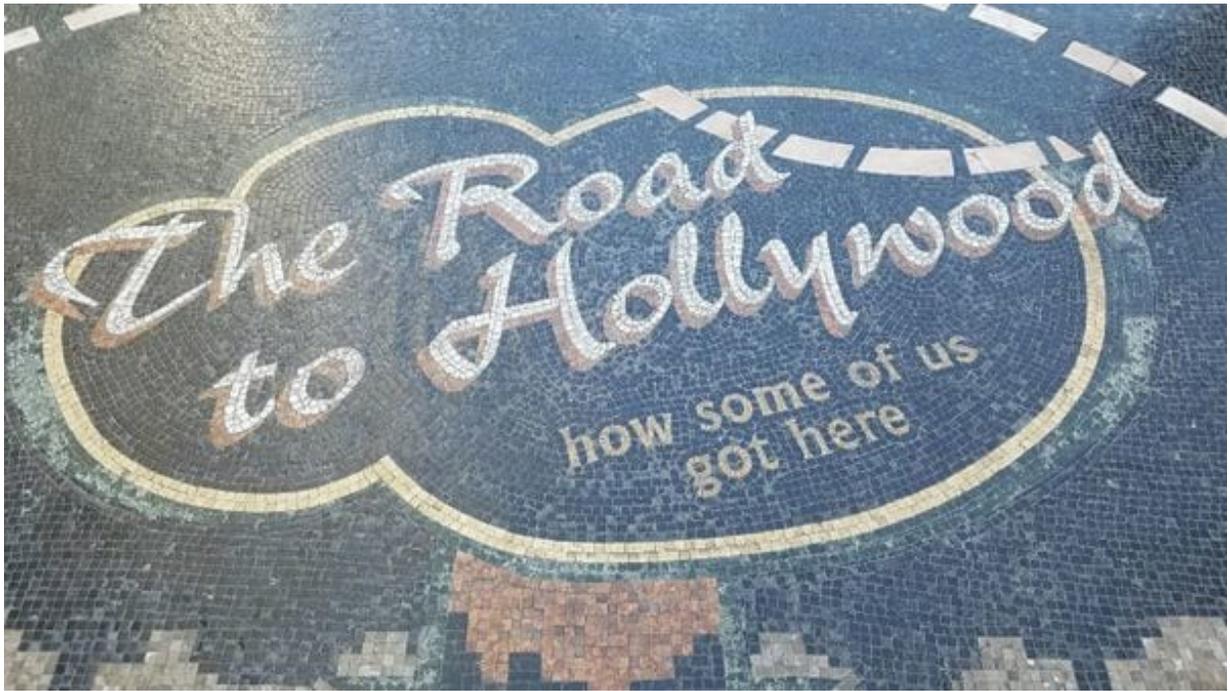


"Superficial Exercises" by José Carlos Martinat, at ProyectosLA. (Carolina A. Miranda / Los Angeles Times)

Plus: Playwright **Luis Valdez** and members of the movie cast **"Zoot Suit"** gathered to reminisce about their experiences as part of the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** PST: LA/LA film program. [Remezcla](#)

Censorship in the wake of Weinstein

Artist **Erika Rothenberg**'s **"The Road to Hollywood"** at the Hollywood & Highland Center is a meandering art installation inspired by the Hollywood dream. Its endpoint: a **daybed** for people to reflect on. But in the wake of the **Harvey Weinstein** scandal it was removed after being described as a "casting couch." Times art critic **Christopher Knight** says this is possibly an illegal act of censorship. It's also, he writes, "a testament to how our new digital mobocracy operates." [Los Angeles Times](#)



Erika Rothenberg's "The Road to Hollywood" at the Hollywood & Highland complex. (Christopher Knight / Los Angeles Times)

Sort of related: An installation by artist **Omer Fast** in New York's Chinatown has critics accusing him of presenting "racist 'poverty porn.'" Critic **Holland Cotter** says the show is a "serious misfire," but also looks at how some of its more compelling elements are getting lost in the hubbub. [New York Times](#)

Fast responds to his protesters. [Hyperallergic](#)

The Hammer's gala

The **Hammer Museum** held its annual **Gala in the Garden** last weekend and in her speech, honoree **Ava DuVernay** honored men who choose to "uplift." Also honored was Pulitzer Prize-winning critic **Hilton Als**. The Times' **Jessica Gelt** was on the scene with the celebrities and the tres leches cake. [Los Angeles Times](#)



Ava DuVernay at the Hammer Museum's Gala in the Garden. (Valerie Macon / AFP / Getty Images)

Sly comic activism

"Scandal" actor **Joe Morton** is taking on the guise of late comedian and political activist **Dick Gregory** in "**Turn Me Loose**" at the **Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**. "'Turn Me Loose' pays homage to [Gregory's] sneaky genius and unwavering commitment," writes Times theater critic **Charles McNulty**, "and Morton's portrayal reveals the anger, love and devastating sanity that set this prophetic comic apart." [Los Angeles Times](#)



Joe Morton stars as Dick Gregory in "Turn Me Loose" at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. (Lawrence K. Ho)

Plus, **McNulty** profiles theater and television actress **Carrie Coon** ("Fargo" and "The Leftovers") who is currently starring in **Amy Herzog's** "scintillating" theater drama "**Mary Jane**" in New York. [Los Angeles Times](#)

Chicago in the O.C.

The **Chicago Symphony** recently took to the stage at **Henry Segerstrom Hall**. The show, writes **Mark Swed**, was "yawningly conventional." But "the homogeneity of instrumental texture [conductor Riccardo Muti] achieved couldn't be beat. Liquid winds blended with stirring brass. Fabulous strings played as one." [Los Angeles Times](#)



Riccardo Muti takes a bow after conducting the Chicago Symphony at Segerstrom Concert Hall. (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)

Swed also reviews **Bang on a Can** at the **Ford Theatres** — which represented the premiere of its new work "**Road Trip**," marking the 30th anniversary of the innovative New York composers collective. [Los Angeles Times](#)

Around the performing arts

Times dance reviewer **Lewis Segal** catches up with the award-winning **Dorrance Dance** at **the Wallis**, which fuses tap and other genres. [Los Angeles Times](#)



Byron Tittle performs "Myelination" during the Dorrance Dance program at the Wallis. (Kevin Parry / The Wallis)

Broadway actress **Tonya Pinkins** is known for her parts in "Jelly's Last Jam" and "Caroline, or Change." Now she is taking on the role of a woman mourning her son in **Alessandro Camon's "Time Alone"** at the **Los Angeles Theatre Center**. Times contributor **Margaret Gray** sits down for a chat. [Los Angeles Times](#)

And **Richard Ginnell** takes in the **Los Angeles Opera's** production of **Verdi's "Nabucco"** — which gets totally meta as an opera within a play, with nods to the opera's 1842 debut at **La Scala** in Milan. [Los Angeles Times](#)

Twist and turns in Boyle Heights

Rory Carroll has a report on the anti-gentrification protests in **Boyle Heights**. Some of the core protesters include white artists such as **Dont Rhine**, a faculty co-chair at the **Vermont College of Fine Arts** (who doesn't live in the neighborhood), and **Walt Senterfitt**, a scientific researcher with a Yale PhD Some in the community say the protests have been hijacked by outsiders. Others say it's racist to imply that whites are controlling resistance efforts. [The Guardian](#)

□

A gallery in Boyle Heights was vandalized by anti-gentrification protesters in 2016. (Liz O. Baylen / Los Angeles Times)

Which makes me wonder how protesters will respond to the proposed transformation of the **Sears** building in Boyle Heights. Let's just say the plans involve the word "artisanal." [Curbed](#)

In other news...

— A trove of **Yiddish artifacts**, hidden from the **Nazis**, have emerged from the basement of a church in **Vilnius**. Among the finds: a postcard written by painter **Marc Chagall**. [New York Times](#)

— **Donald Trump** continues to insist that a painting by **Renoir** he keeps in his home is real — despite evidence to

the contrary. [Vanity Fair](#)

— A tourist killed by **falling masonry** at the **Basilica di Santa Croce** raises questions about the state of the country's aging monuments. [The Guardian](#)

— "The architectural equivalent of a Camry." Critic **Mark Lamster** takes on **Toyota's** new, very suburban headquarters in **Dallas**. This is really good. [Dallas Morning News](#)

— At the tender age of 35, playwright **Lauren Gunderson**, has already had more than 20 works produced. [The New Yorker](#)



Playwright Lauren Gunderson in New York in 2007. (Robert Caplin / For the Times)

— **Matthew Desmond's** Pulitzer Prize-winning book "**Evicted**" will be the subject of an exhibition at the **National Building Museum** in April. [Citylab](#)

— When graphic novelist **Brian Fies** lost his home to the fires in **Santa Rosa**, he began drawing. [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

— In related news: glass sculptor **Clifford Rainey**, chair of the **California College of Art's** glass program, lost everything to the fires. [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

— **Lin-Manuel Miranda** has teamed up with the **Warhol** and **Rauschenberg Foundations** to aid **Puerto Rico**. [Artnet](#)

— Why the **freakiest monsters** are always **hybrids**. [Nautilus](#)

And last but not least ...

A guy cosplaying New York's **Jacob Javits Convention Center** while inside the Jacob Javits Convention Center. [@Snyder1835](#)