

10 Art Shows to See in LA This March

Your list of must-see, fun, insightful, and very Los Angeles art events this month, including Alison Saar, Kade Twist, a show on the visual language of protest, and much more.

By Matt Stromberg, February 28, 2023



Kathleen Ryan, "Screwdriver" (2023), onyx, citrine, rhodonite, garnet, agate, tektite, lava rock, turquoise, aquamarine, serpentine, magnesite, amazonite, black tourmaline, jasper, prehnite, ruby in zoisite, marble, amber, labradorite, smoky quartz, quartz, acrylic, steel pins on coated polystyrene, aluminum umbrella, 68" AMC Javelin trunk, 77 inches x 88 inches x 107 inches (photo by Lance Brewer, courtesy the artist and François Ghebaly Gallery)

Now that the fairs are over, it may seem like the Los Angeles art world is settling down and getting back to normal, but the art on view this month is still volatile and boundary-pushing. Sculpture is packing a punch, whether it's Alison Saar's radical, revisionist take on racist, colonial imagery, or Kathleen Ryan's fabulously fetid depictions of American exceptionalism, rot and all. Two-dimensional work kicks back just as fiercely,

from Luis Garza's documentation of Chicano activism of the late 1960s and early 1970s to an exhibition of art as activism at Subliminal Projects. Korakrit Arunanondchai uses fire and ash as creative elements, while Gaetano Pesce proves that his delightfully unrestrained designs still offer a welcome rejoinder to staid Modernism after more than five decades.

Kathleen Ryan: Beachcomber



Kathleen Ryan, "Generator VIII" (2023), Quartz crystal, silver-plated stainless steel cable, silver crimps, steel, automotive paint, Dodge trunks, 38 inches x 32 inches x 41 1/2 inches (photo by Lance Brewer, image courtesy the artist and François Ghebaly Gallery)

Kathleen Ryan is known for her glittering sculptures of decaying fruit, constructed from hundreds of small crystals, stones, marbles, and bits of glass. With her current solo show, she applies this mixture of fascination and revulsion to that quintessential site of California cool, freedom, and leisure: the beach. A rotten orange slice and cherry are skewered by a larger-than-life cocktail umbrella, alluding to the sickly sweet hangover that remains once the party is over. In contrast to her signature maximalism, she has crafted oversized clam shells from scrap car parts, their elegant industrial curves tinged with a melancholic sense of abandonment.