

ARTNEWS

BY Maximiliano Durón and Alex Greenberger
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15 Los Angeles Artists to Watch

In a previous issue of *ARTnews*, critic Kavior Moon praised the fourth edition of the Hammer Museum's Made in L.A. biennial, which closed in September, for refusing to define a "Los Angeles aesthetic."

Instead, that exhibition favored the multiplicity of perspectives the city has long celebrated. With that spirit in mind, we have assembled a list of 15 of L.A.'s most perceptive and probing artists. Working in a variety of mediums from painting and archival projects to performance and textiles, they exemplify the diverse sensibilities and identities that make up the city's art scene. Only four of them were born in L.A., a sign perhaps of the welcoming nature of a city that continues to lure creators despite the rising price of real estate. Nearly all are artists of color, an indication of the crucial role African-American, Asian, and Latinx communities have played in L.A.'s art history.



Genevieve Gagnard, *Synchronized*, 2018.
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Genevieve Gagnard

Born in 1981, Orange, Massachusetts

Genevieve Gagnard works primarily with a form of photographic self-portraiture for which she dons costumes to embody different characters as a way to understand how they might navigate the world. She also creates installations representing her characters' imagined living spaces. Visits to local thrift shops ensure that her characters are "really of the place," said Gagnard, who described her methods as a way of "taking the past and bringing it with you as times change."

Her work explores the complexities of racial identity, particularly as it relates to her own experience as a multiracial woman who can pass for white. "If I allow you to enter the space of this person that shows more about who they really are, you're asked to check your opinions or projections that you put on that person," she said.