

HYPERALLERGIC

GUIDE

10 Art Shows to See in Los Angeles This December

Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack's odes to the detritus of LA, Nancy Lupo's supernatural benches, Alan Luna's erotic metates, 200 artists against normative sexuality, and more.



Matt Stromberg

December 1, 2025 — 6 min read



Alan Luna, *Huipiles Colorados* (2025) (photo by and courtesy Alan Luna)

This December's picks focus either directly or indirectly on contemporary social issues, showcasing cultural protest and frameworks for envisioning new possibilities. *Phallus :: Fascinum :: Fascism* at The Box, for example, counters creeping repression with a deliriously inclusive heterogeneity. *Horror* at Sprüth Magers features artists who explore revulsion and terror, giving visual form to the very real sense of dread many of us are experiencing. Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack's assemblages at Night Gallery make poetic use of the discarded objects from the streets of LA, reflecting the turmoil that has recently engulfed the city. The inaugural show at La Plaza Projects features Alan Luna's subversive engagements with Mexican history and American modernism, while the artists in *A Tender Excavation* mine the archive to unearth previously untold narratives.

Alan Luna: Modernisisimo

La Plaza Projects, 6460 Whittier Boulevard, East Los Angeles, California
Through January 9, 2026

A Tender Excavation

Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive, El Sereno, Los Angeles
Through February 21, 2026



Mercedes Dorame, "Image 3" from the *Living Proof* series (2008) (image courtesy the artist)

A Tender Excavation assembles a diverse group of primarily US-based artists who engage with archives to create alternative narratives. Working with family or historical photographic archives, these artists transform these documents through collage, paintings, sculpture, or video, offering new perspectives on migration, diaspora, discrimination, and violence. Through abstraction or distortion, they draw attention to historical erasure and the instability of memory. Curated by Selene Preciado and presented by Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, the exhibition includes Zeynep Abes, Mely Barragán, Mercedes Dorame, Star Montana, Camille Wong, and others.

Enrique Martínez Celaya: The Sextant

[Wende Museum](#), 10808 Culver Boulevard, Culver City, California
Through October 11, 2026



13ThingsLA: October 29

Thinly Veiled for your art calendar



SHANA NYS DAMBROT AND HIJINX ARTS | 13 THINGS LA

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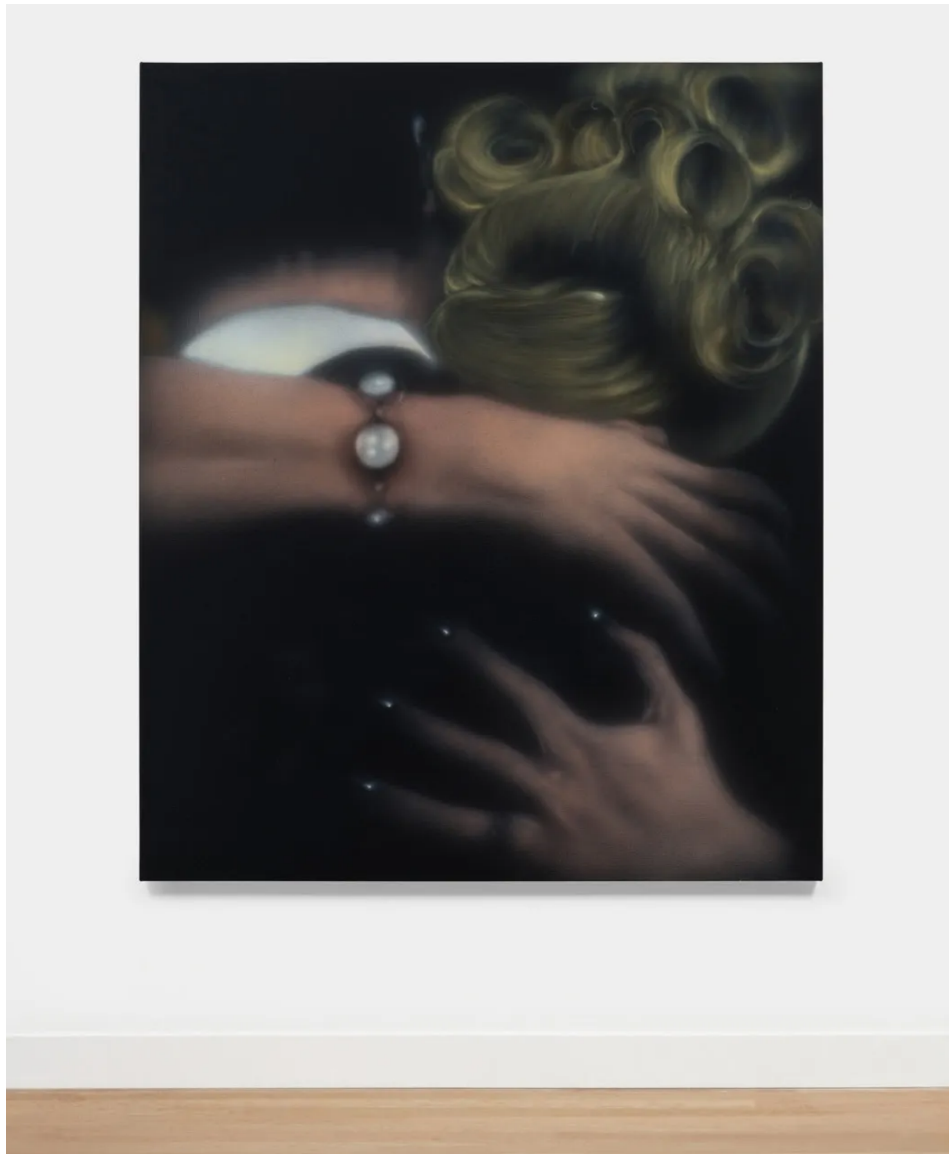
Stephen Buscemi, The Lesson, 2025, acrylic on linen, 50 x 84 1/8 in (Courtesy of M+B)

This week's Los Angeles art calendar reflects our twin obsessions with Halloween and Día de los Muertos that I think we can all agree goes way past a children's holiday. Whether you're going costume and candy or meditative and ancestral, this is the time when the veil between this and other worlds is at its thinnest—act accordingly. In art terms, find a panoply of exhibitions and events that honor the shadows and chills—

M+B Gallery, Philosophical Research Society, Perrotin, Sebastian Gladstone, Shosh Wayne, OCHI, Wilding Cran, The Pit, Now Instant Image Hall, LACE/Luckman Gallery, LAND, Descanso Gardens, and LA Opera.

Plus, not scary unless you are frightened of birds, catch me in conversation with artist Eve Wood and Andre Yi at **LAUNCH Gallery** on Saturday at 2pm. PS, did you know that **Hammer Museum** is a special election voting hub with an official ballot dropbox, beginning November 1st? Just saying.

FEATURE





*Ann Le, What we lost in the Ocean, 2022, video still. (Courtesy of the artist.
Graphic design by Jada Wong.)*

LACE presents *A Tender Excavation*, opening Saturday, November 1, 2-5pm at Luckman Gallery. Curated by Selene Preciado, this group exhibition gathers 15 artists who transform family photographs, historical archives, and found imagery into layered works and acts of remembrance. Across painting, collage, film, and installation, faded portraits, stitched surfaces, projected light, and fragments of handwriting merge in new visual lineages. Highlights include how Mercedes Dorame filters ancestral cosmologies through contemporary Los Angeles light; Tarrah Krajnak re-stages archival portraits with herself as subject; and Susu Attar collages video stills that shimmer between displacement and return. Together the cohort's works trace how personal and collective histories survive through translation and repair, asking what means to inherit both the beauty and the burden of the image. *On view at CalState through February 21; welcometolace.org.* —SND



ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

Could a Louvre-like heist happen in Los Angeles? L.A. arts and culture this weekend



A police car parks in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, one week after the Oct. 19 robbery. The Paris prosecutor said that a number of suspects have been arrested over the theft of crown jewels from museum. (Thomas Padilla / Associated Press)

**By Jessica Gelt**Staff Writer | [Follow](#)

Oct. 31, 2025 8 AM PT

If you're like me, you spent a lot of time over the last few weeks reading about the unbelievably brazen Louvre museum heist. Not only did it provide a welcome respite

from obsessing over the destruction of the East Wing, it also supplied an adrenaline boost for the imagination: Who on earth had the nerve to literally cut through a window in broad daylight and leap into the world's most famous museum in order to grab nearly \$102 million worth of crown jewels before escaping on a motor scooter?

My favorite article about the fiasco ran in the Atlantic under the headline [“The Louvre Heist is Terrific,”](#) with the subhed, “Here was a dreamy little crime in which no one really got hurt.” The French people beg to differ. In many circles, the crime signaled a glaring national failure. Either way, seven suspects have [now been detained by police](#) in connection with the crime, and we will have answers soon enough — even if nobody will ever see the jewels again.

The heist seemed ripped from the script of a Hollywood blockbuster — something along the lines of “Ocean’s Eleven,” starring Vincent Cassel and Omar Sy instead of George Clooney and Matt Damon. As such, it spawned a paroxysm of frenetic, click-sticky activity on social and legacy media alike. Newly-minted CBS news chief Bari Weiss reportedly suggested to staff that they interview “The Da Vinci Code” author Dan Brown about the heist. And an online platform called Action Network that analyzes odds, mostly for betting and sports books, released a new U.S. study called [“Top 10 Museums Most Vulnerable to a Heist.”](#)

“The study estimates each museum’s implied probability of a heist, showing how visibility, value, and public access combine into a theoretical ‘heist appeal.’ It reflects exposure, not vulnerability. To be clear: we’re not predicting theft. We’re measuring where culture meets risk,” Action Network explained on its website.

It turns out that in Los Angeles, Getty Center and Los Angeles County Museum of Art have the most “heist-appeal,” according to the study. The former comes in at No. 4 on the list, and the latter at No. 7. New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art sits in the top place, followed by Washington D.C.’s National Gallery of Art.

The study puts the implied probability of a heist at Getty Center at 3.9%, and gives this sunny description of the campus, “A hilltop postcard with galleries. Open vistas, bright courtyards, and art that draws camera phones nonstop, all under movie-worthy security.”

Movie-worthy security has me thinking: I might write a screenplay featuring a gang of criminals who make a daring escape on the Getty tram with Titian’s Venus and Adonis.

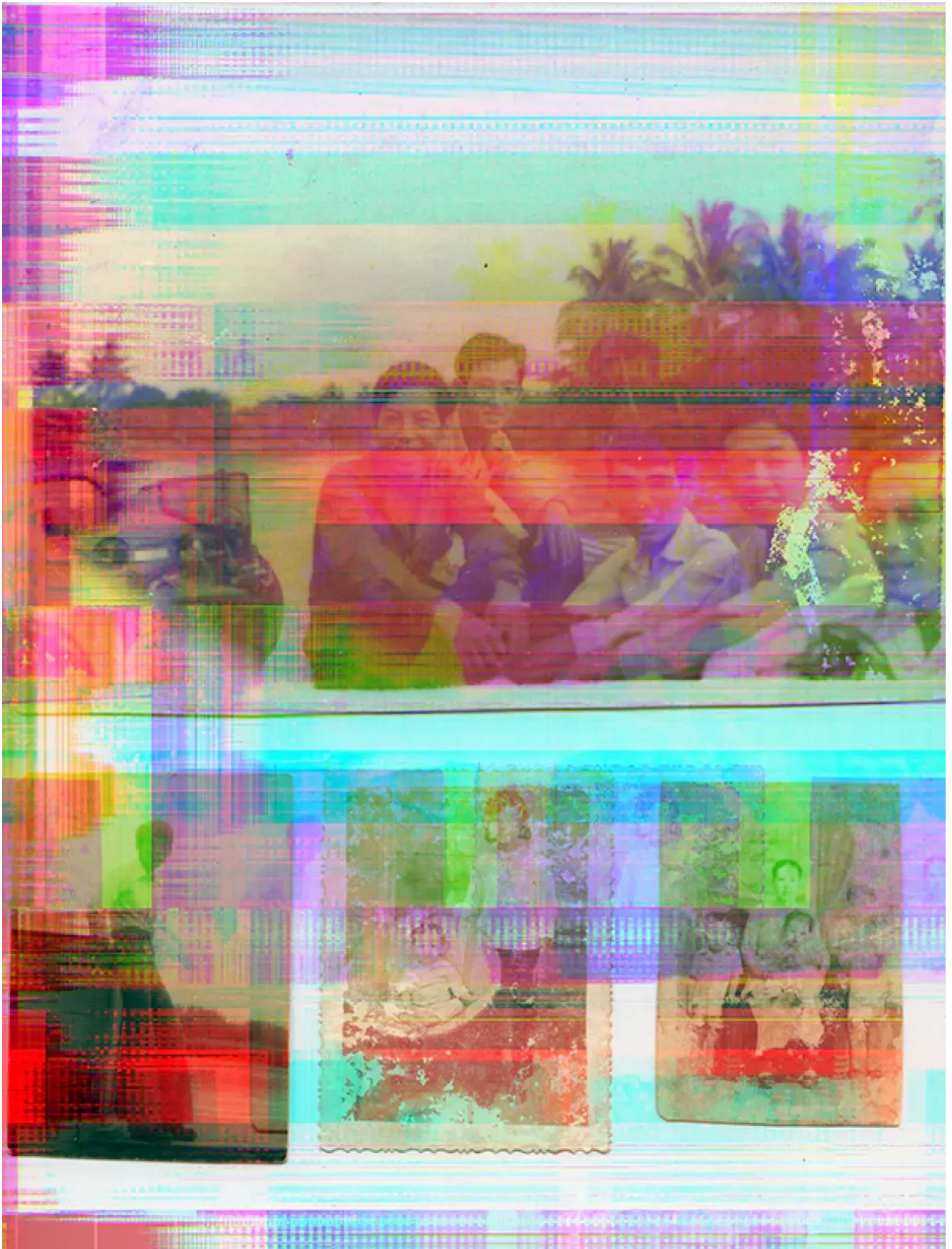
I’m arts and culture writer Jessica Gelt, planning my next great adventure. Here’s your arts and culture news for the week.

On our radar



Composer Sarah Kirkland Snider’s opera “Hildegard” will be performed at the Wallis. (Sarah Kirkland Snider)

ADVERTISEMENT



"What we lost in the Ocean," 2022 (video still) by Ann Le. (Ann Le)

A Tender Excavation

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions presents a group show of artists working from historical and familial photographic archives to create transformative new stories from Afro-Latinx, African American, Chinese American, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, Korean American, Iraqi American, Latinx, Mexican, Mexican American, Peruvian American, Thai, Turkish American and Vietnamese American cultures and communities.

Opening reception, 2-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, through Feb. 21, 2026. Cal State L.A., Luckman Gallery, 5151 State University Drive. theluckman.org



Faye Webster performs Saturday and Sunday at Walt Disney Concert Hall. (Michael Blackshire / Los Angeles Times)

Faye Webster

The Atlanta-based singer-songwriter, backed by the 40-piece Hollywood Bowl



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LISTEN



Diaspora, displacement and family photos at new exhibition



By [James Chow](#) and [Natalie Chudnovsky](#)

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A video still of Ann Le's 'What we lost in the Ocean' (2022).
(Courtesy Ann Le/Graphic design by Jada Wong)

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In the new exhibition *A Tender Excavation* at the Luckman Gallery at Cal State L.A., 15 artists dug through their family photo archives to create pieces connecting personal histories of diaspora with larger themes of discrimination, displacement, slavery and — ultimately — healing.

“They work with their family photo archives in a way that is transformative,” said Selene Preciado, curator and director of programming at the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, or LACE. “The works are very personal and deep. I hope that ... people see themselves also reflected in those histories.”

Most of the artists featured in the exhibition are based in L.A., and their works incorporate photography, video, painting and sculpture.

For LACE curator Preciado, who grew up in Tijuana and spent the past 15 years of her life in Los Angeles, the themes hit close to home.

“I feel really connected to the different diasporas that comprise our population here in L.A. because we have very similar histories ... of colonization, histories of pain and displacement with immigration. And I think that finding transformation and healing and thriving from that, it's very special ... especially when it comes from the power of art.”

A Tender Excavation is on view at the Luckman Gallery at Cal State L.A. starting Saturday through Feb. 21, 2026.

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The advertisement features a close-up of a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust watch with a fluted bezel and a diamond-set dial. The watch is shown from the side, highlighting its iconic design. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

ART AND CULTURE

Los Angeles art exhibitions: the best shows to see in November 2025

Read our pick of the best Los Angeles art exhibitions to see this month, from Marilyn Minter's hyperrealist style to Sprüth Magers exploring the 'horror' genre



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Lace at Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, until 21 February 2026



(Image credit: Susu Attar)

Curated by Selene Preciado this exhibit approaches research-based artistic practices through propositions of alternative histories, bringing together a group of artists who work with historical and familial photographic archives as a point of departure to construct new narratives and elicit transformation. Artists featured in the exhibition include Zeynep Abes, Susu Attar, Jamil G Baldwin, Mely Barragán, Artemisa Clark, Arleene Correa Valencia, Mercedes Dorame, Prima Jalichandra-Sakuntabhai, Leah King, Tarrah Krajinak, Heesoo Kwon, Ann Le, Arlene Mejorado, Star Montana, and Camille Wong.

Land marks
