

DAZED

The best new galleries to seek out in LA

The ever-unique environment for creativity has some new galleries on the scene – see what you're missing out on here

by Charlotte Jansen

The development of LA's real estate has renewed a global interest in Los Angeles. The bombast has slayed cheap rents and the feeling of dropping off the radar there – but it hasn't done much to put pressure on addressing the problem of the city's perennially poor. One example is the notorious Skid Row, in gentrifying Downtown LA, with an estimated (according to an LA Chamber report) community of between 8-11,000 chronically homeless people.

So what is the irresistible attraction for creatives in this hyperbolic city today? In spite of the rotten political infrastructures below the development of real estate in some of its poorest neighbourhoods, there are positive changes taking place in the LA art scene. More than 50 galleries have opened here in the last two years, and the city just got its first dedicated critical platform: Contemporary Art Review LA, launched in May as an online journal and quarterly publication. Bringing together galleries, artists and critics based in Los Angeles, it's another important step in shaping the art coming out of LA into an autonomous scene.

Riffing on a mix of escapism, indulgence, weed and desert heat, Los Angeles has always been a unique environment for creativity, but in reference to the recent migration of new gallery spaces to the east of the city, here's some of our favourite places to experience what is making LA stand out now.

MAMA GALLERY

One of the youngest galleries in the Arts District, MAMA is a 4,000 square ft space showing installations of various media but with a particularly interesting range of performance, automotive and photography work (they recently hosted the LA screening of Petra Collin's new film series Making Space). Exhibitions are curated with a metaphysical slant; each show is joined to the next by a mysterious thread that will be revealed gradually, as the gallery grows.