

Think Tank Gallery and Vans present
Drinkin' Smokin' & West Coastin'
A Group Love/Hate Letter to LA

Think Tank Gallery Returns to DTLA with a Month of Shows About Their Hometown, All the Stereotypes That Come From It – Especially True Ones



Drinkin,' Smokin,' & West Coastin' Illustrations by Austin England

July 6, 2017 | Los Angeles, CA – Months after moving out of Downtown Los Angeles and popping up across town, Think Tank Gallery proudly announces their massive homecoming exhibit, ***Drinkin' Smokin' & West Coastin' – A Group Love/Hate Letter to LA***, opening August 19th, 2017. In a much-covered story, the alternative arts venue that was home to the Think Tank for years of skate and street art shows was converted to an events rental space and the gallery co-op was forced to leave following Oakland's Ghost Ship Fire. Now the gallery has teamed up with sneaker brand Vans and others like Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles to once again take over the venue for a monthlong series of art and events. To pull it off, all of their favorite artists and producers have come along, plus some new ones; and once again they're bringing nightly events into the venue for a whole month.

This time around, the Think Tank is taking everything back to their roots – both in locale and in theme. Cali born and raised Lead Curator, Jacob Patterson, has focused DS&WC around the musical aesthetic that informed his taste in the arts: nostalgic West Coast hip hop. If you could hang the sounds of Angeleno favorite 93.5 KDAY on gallery walls, this would be the show. The aesthetic period of influence on the show is one that both locals and visitors will recall, tapping an era rife with turmoil and creativity. Creators in the show have been tasked with capturing their take on LA “from the '84 Olympics to the Kings/Lakers rivalry of the early aughts.” Incredible sporting moments create but one chapter of inspiration from the period; art fans will revisit the riots whose 25th anniversary just passed, a particularly famous police chase, and many other memories both good and bad.

The work of local and international artists like **Hueman, Gangster Doodles, Jamie Browne, Alex Gardner, JC.ro, Sinzi Velicescu, and Luke Pelletier** fill a list of over 70 confirmed artists so far that will carry guests through the dynamic space. This concept of passage through space is a big motif of the month, building transportation into the immersive experience design that is signature in Think Tank shows. Production Designer Danny Heidner and Art Director Dino Nama have captured the archetypal LA stereotype – traffic – in every layer of the show. They use creative signage, travel brochure art catalogs, and a police chase racetrack by Ash Santos to bring crowds down a memory lane planned with traffic jams in mind. Other installations include a Lagunitas Beer x El Silencio Mezcal dive bar designed to look like it crashed into a DMV (complete with racing games), Korean-American artist Ray Young Chu's satirical 1992 Ktown liquor store “Ray-Mart,” Van's surreal cloud of telephone wires with hanging

custom sneakers, and a full Diner serving Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles to provide something for every guest that's ever fetishized a part of LA history.

The Think Tank team has done this before, creating a massive art installation in the front of their 13,500sq ft space and building a lounge in the back, then filing that lounge with nightly events. The most popular such example was 2016's *Break Bread* exhibit featuring Scott Hove and Baker's Son (both of whom are also in *DS&WC*), a maze made out of cake, and LED screen installations. *Break Bread* saw over 33,000 attendees in a month, and was free to the public – like a *Museum of Ice Cream* or *14th Factory* experience but less costly to guests. A wide-ranging audience has enjoyed Think Tank's shows over the years due to this mindset, and they've expanded the idea into a rental model for local producers; the gallery now curates nightly programming to match the theme of their exhibits just as the painters create new works for them.

Local producers are creating a dynamic calendar to close out the summer – this is not the type of show to attend on opening night then forget about until the closing reception. Guests can expect events like an experiential LA murder mystery supper club, Brew Ha Ha (a comedy show drinking game), arcade game parties, Los Angeles-themed love and hate letter readings, a Bloody Gums zine and film fest, daytime dance parties, and even a 420-friendly speed dating game. These events are curated by Negin Singh of cARTel Arts (Broke LA) and Little Face (Immersion cannabis events) and will be split into Drinkin' events, Smokin' events, and general West Coastin' gallery hours and events. Expect a full calendar to be released on the gallery's website soon, with smoking events running through local dispensary ShowGrow.

Show Opening: Free | Saturday, August 19th | 7:30pm – 12am

(private artist and VIP reception before)

Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles will be served on opening night with ticket purchase.

Show Runs: August 20-September 23 | Free Gallery Hours 11am-5pm, Thursday – Sunday

Nightly Events:

visit <http://drinkinmokinwestcoastin.com> and/or follow newsletter for weekly calendar

About Think Tank Gallery: Think Tank Gallery spent the past seven years converting their 13,500 sq. ft. warehouse into one of DTLA's most formidable names in immersive art. They joined local and international brands to build everything from reactive skate parks to functional coffee shop sculptures. Their most recent collaboration with Cirque du Soleil invited over 33,000 guests from around the world to walk through a large cake-themed installation, highlighted by a new cultural event each night. Their transient brand is revisiting their old venue through generous and partial financial support by new management, [939 Studio](#).

Project website + RSVP for opening night:

<http://drinkinmokinwestcoastin.com>

Instagram / Twitter: @thinktankdla @drinkinmokinwestcoastin

Facebook: /thinktankgallery

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