

KCRW Art Insider

Top 3 This Week

Let Lindsay Preston Zappas curate your art viewing experiences this week. Here are our Top 3 picks of what not to miss. Scroll down for Insider stories.



1. Anya Gallaccio at Blum & Poe

Rich scents ooze from a back room at Blum & Poe in Culver City, where the gallery walls have been covered with layers of dark chocolate. Titled *Stroke*, the work by artist Anya Gallaccio was the first exhibition ever shown at the gallery in 1994, and has been re-presented in celebration of its 25th year. Though walls covered in chocolate might conjure Willy Wonka-esque fantasies of lickable wallpaper or chocolate rivers, the artist insists that “the idea of a chocolate room is one thing, and the reality of a chocolate room is very much something else.” The work toys with scent, desire, and withholding, while also passing as a minimalist sculpture, mirroring the more masculine works of the genre made in steel. But in person, the work—which

is built up with individual brushstrokes of chocolate—displays a richly nuanced surface that rewards a viewer’s visual sense as much as their olfactory.

On view: September 14–October 26, 2019 | [Open map](#)

[Blum & Poe](#)



2. CURRENT:LA FOOD

The second iteration of CURRENT:LA—the public art triennial sponsored by the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs—is currently in full affect, hosting exhibitions, workshops, and events across greater LA for five weeks through November 3rd. Following up on the first water-themed triennial in 2016, dozens of artists have contributed food-related public art projects that examine our region’s food culture, and “the advances—as well as the challenges—we face as producers and consumers.” In over a dozen public parks, artists are offering free public workshops on topics such as composting, native plants, solar cooking, fermentation, and growing your own algae. At Palms Park you can see Ry Rocklen’s troupe of performers in junk food costumes, or see artist Nari Ward’s *Enchanted Servers* sculptures in Leimert Park while enjoying bands and food from local vendors. Many

of the works on view also feature opportunities to hear the artists speak about the ideas behind their projects. Learn more at www.currentla.org.

On view: October 5–November 3, 2019 | [Map of Sites](#) | [Event Calendar](#)

[Current LA: Food](#)



3. Willa Wasserman at The Gallery @ Michael's

Michael's restaurant in Santa Monica has been hosting The Gallery @ Michael's for almost two years, taking up the historic legacy of the restaurant as an artist hang out and informal, pop-up exhibition space. Today, The Gallery installs curated exhibitions in the upstairs dining area of the restaurant. Currently installed in the sparse space—with only one dining table prepped for a party of ten—is a quiet exhibition of works by Willa Wasserman. The artist uses metalpoint—an ancient technique often used to create a preliminary underpainting—to create ghostly still lives through the dense repetition of lines. Based in traditional styles of portraiture and still life painting, these works are buzzy and expansive, upending traditional representation by demanding a slower pace of viewing as Wasserman's fuzzy lines coalesce into discernible forms

On view: September 19–November 3, 2019 | [Open map](#)

[The Gallery @ Michael's](#)



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Gallery Talk

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Ry Rocklen's Junk Food Art

Ry Rocklen's *Food Group* project has taken several forms. He started with the simple idea of making something big, then small again, and used as his subject various junk foods: french fries, hamburgers, and cupcakes. He recreated a set of full-size costumes that he invited friends to wear in a 3D scanner, after which he printed 3D versions of each food-sporting-performer at the original scale of the food. This simple idea of making something big in order to make it small again, has sprawled out into a variety of forms—3D models, stitched blankets, and for CURRENT:LA, his small models have been cast in bronze and placed on food trays across Palms Park. On Sundays, his original cast of performers romp around the park in a circular pattern, mimicking the pattern of digestion.

[Find Out When You can See the Performance](#)

Lindsay Preston Zappas is KCRW's Arts Correspondent and the founder/
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