



[COMMUNITY](#) // November 15, 2019

Loitering is Delightful

Loitering is traditionally considered the preserve of delinquents, teenagers, and miscreants. Generally speaking, those up to no good. Of course, some are freer to dillydally than others. As Ross Gay reminds us in his incisive essay “Loitering Is Delightful” (which the author has kindly permitted us to use here), “...the darker your skin, the more likely you are to be ‘loitering.’” [...]

By [Eraina Ferguson](#), Writer, Advocate, and People Lover



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Is Delightful” (which the author has kindly permitted us to use here), “...the darker your skin, the more likely you are to be ‘loitering.’” Gay goes on to point out that for people of color, any public display of “non-productive delight” – from loitering to laughter – can be censured. This leads one to ask: at which point does lingering cross into criminal territory? What does ‘loitering’ really mean? And why is it frowned upon?

Furthermore, might the gesture of standing or sitting, with no apparent purpose, contain a seed of radical potential? Could loitering offer some respite, however temporary, from the capitalist cycle of consumption and production? In a world consumed by digital devices and driven by productivity, what possibilities does daydreaming offer? Can fulfillment be found in staring into space? Is there pleasure in simply hanging out? What does it mean to be seen engaging in a seemingly aimless pursuit and, moreover, to take up public space in the process? Is loitering contagious?

At the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, visitors need pay for nothing to legitimize their lollygagging. Spending a long time in the gallery is not considered threatening; on the contrary, it is encouraged. Loitering is delightful posits the municipal gallery, a civic space with free admission, as a safe place to sit, look, and think.

With new work by Milano Chow, Lauren Davis Fisher, Ishi Glinsky, David Horvitz, Dylan Mira, Joshua Ross, Asha Schechter, Cauleen Smith, Lani Trock, and Megan Whitmarsh, Loitering is delightful invites you to delight in dawdling.

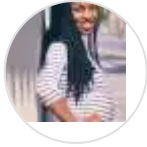
The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), and the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation (BAPF) are pleased to present Loitering is delightful, an exhibition that brings together ten Los Angeles artists to explore the joyful possibilities of slowing down.

Offering free admission and programs, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

serves as a welcoming space for everyone, regardless of their income level.

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Eraina Ferguson, Writer, Advocate, and People Lover

Eraina Ferguson is a creative nonfiction writer currently penning a memoir about raising a daughter with autism and deafness. Her story was featured in "The New Haven Register" She holds an M.Ed in Education and an MAR in Religion from Yale University. Learn more about her here: erainaferguson.com

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