





Clockwise from top: Rendering of Refik Anadol's 40-foot by 15-foot digital work Artificial Realities: California Landscapes, at Jeffrey Deitch Los Angel through April 29. Jessica Taylor Bellamy's Warm Light (2023), part of her exhibit at Anat Ebgi Gallery; Chase Hall's coffee-and-acrylic painting Seas

Art That Looks at L.A.: 'Full of Substance and Surface'

As Frieze and four other fairs open around the city, THR showcases four artists whose focus on Los Angeles and its 'sunshine and noir' landscape has Hollywood collectors taking notice By Degen Pener

ebruary is L.A.'s busiest art month, with no less than five fairs kicking off around the city. Among them, Frieze Los Angeles, owned by Endeavor, returns in a new and larger location at Santa Monica Airport (see guide on page 32). As the fairs open, THR catches up with four buzzy artists, all with new shows right now that explore the topography of Los Angeles.

Refik Anadol

Just days after his AI-based art was shown on screens surrounding the stage of the 2023Grammys, artist and computer programmer Anadol opened a mesmerizing solo show, Living Paintings, at Jeffrey Deitch. The exhibit showcases the Istanbul-born artist's large-scale LED-screen video works that harness millions of images and





data points, transforming them into seemingly fluid cascades of imagery. The pieces include the work $Artificial\ Realities$: California Landscapes, generated from 300 million photos of national parks in the Golden State. "We create our AI on this data and our AI will be dreaming those landscapes. I'm calling it a 'thinking brush,' " says Anadol, whose 15-person studio is in L.A.'s Frogtown neighborhood. The artist tells THR that next year he plans to open an artificial-reality museum, Dataland, in DTLA. "I love L.A.," he says. "It has innovation in the core." WHERE 925 N. Orange Drive,

through April 29 $\textbf{who collects} \, An adol's \, work \, is \,$ in the collection of CAA, which

represents him. His agent, Thao Nguyen, who is also the CEO of live-event company Constellation





Immersive, describes his work as "merging painting with machine learning with so much rigor, feeling and optimism."

Jessica Taylor Bellamy

The L.A. native artist says that she looks at the "sunshine and noir, realism and fantasy" of the city as inspiration for her multimedia art. In Endnotes for Sunshine, her first solo show at Anat Ebgi Gallery in Mid-City, Bellamy depicts inviting landscapes that are dotted with palm trees or swimming pools, all washed in the tones of West Coast sunsets. But superimposed on many of them are silk-screened articles from the Los Angeles Times with unsettling headlines like "California's tsunami threat"





and "safety crackdown." Says Bellamy, "A lot of the things I'm collecting are specific stories that might be about the climate or they might be visual indicators of change like temperature maps." The show also includes a

 $video\ sculpture, \textit{In view, if not in}$ $\it reach$, which combines footage taken while driving west in L.A. at sunset with a hand-painted animation of vanity license plates. "The show is exploring the environmental tapestry of L.A.," explains Bellamy, who grew up in Whittier and completed an MFA at USC last year.

where $6150\ Wilshire\ Blvd.,$ through Feb. 25

WHO COLLECTS UTA partner and creative director Arthur Lewis, the head of UTA Fine Arts, tells THR that he loves Bellamy's work for "her dexterity in capturing the L.A. landscape" and because it addresses "deeply rooted social inequities and the devastating environmental damage we so often try to look away from."

Truth is at the heart of Hall's autobiographical paintings, found in the dimensional, varied, rich spectrum of sepia tones. On display during Frieze Los Angeles at David Kordansky Gallery's booth, Hall's solo presentation of new work — made up of diptychs and stand-alone canvases created through a surprising alchemy of brewed coffee and acrylic paint are a veritable bildungsroman told visually. Born in the Midwest, raised in Los Angeles and now residing in New York City, Hall creates paintings, many of Black surfers, that are inspired by his own childhood journey



Anadol's digital art Machine Hallucinations played on screens during the 2023 Grammys.

Adviser to Hollywood's A-List

Joe Sheftel, whose clients include Ryan Murphy and Greg Berlanti, talks art collecting and fairgoing



R yan Murphy, Netflix's Bela Bajaria, Greg Berlanti and Joel McHale are among the Hollywood names who work with art adviser Joe Sheftel in building their art collections. "Joe has been great in helping us focus and translate our passions into visual arts, while also teaching us a great deal about market trends. We've discovered artists' works both historical and current that our whole family is inspired by every day," say Berlanti and his husband, Robbie Rogers, in a joint email to THR. The New York-based Sheftel talks current trends in art and what he likes about working with industry clients.

How would you describe the current moment in the art world?

It seems like we're on the cusp of a transition. For the last decade or so, things have been very focused on younger artists and emerging art and figuration. But that's not the only narrative right now. There's a lot of interest in historical work; we're seeing a lot of younger galleries looking at art from the '60s and '70s from overlooked artists.





 $\ \ \, \text{time looking} - \text{without the pressure of buying for} \\$ a while. It's important to look at a lot of stuff without making decisions and meeting galleries and experts and artists and auction-house people

What is it like when you start with a new client?

With everyone I've worked with, we spend a lot of

Are industry clients different from other clients in any way?

People from entertainment have done so much visual work as part of their careers. So they bring a lot of that insight to collecting, as well as a decisiveness about

what looks interesting to them. Could you describe Ryan Murphy's point of view as a collector?

Ryan's view is very narrative and he has a really instinctive understanding of what is happening culturally and creatively. A lot of his collection is inspired by the location the art is going to be in. So for the New York house, the reference points were very much 1980s New York, what was going on then, the AIDS crisis and the artists who were being political in that moment, like David Wojnarowicz. Also what Ryan is working on, [like] The Boys in the Band and [The Andy Warhol Diaries] documentary, has a lot of influence

How is Greg Berlanti and Robbie Rogers' collection different?

They both have a lot of love for painting, both abstract and figurative and also colorful. They have an interest in gay historical painting, like Hugh Steers is an artist they've been really interested in, and Betty Parsons, a lesbian painter and gallerist who was showing Mark Rothko and all those artists in the '50s and '60s. They're also interested in younger queer artists like Anthony Cudahy. And they are interested in things like American surrealism, artists like Robert Vickrey and George Tooker, and then moving to artists like Peter Halley and Alex Katz.

Do you have any tips for navigating the Frieze art fair?

Come in with a plan. To access the A-plus material, you need to have some access figured out beforehand, whether that's a qualified adviser or a relationship with a gallerist there. - D.P.

Interview edited for length and clarity

Style

Art



Friedrich Kunath's Cars & Coffee Los Angeles (2022), on view through Feb. 25 at L.A.'s Blum & Poe gallery.

out West, and the places that provided solace while he battled waves of microaggressions and othering — namely, the beach and the outdoor activities that make up Southern California's horizon line. "I think oftentimes the ideas of identity [or] intersectionality become a bit banal, or lost in these polarizing narratives that we're often interested in," says Hall. "[I'm] just trying to take that step a bit further into my own realm of nuance."

WHERE At Frieze Los Angeles, through Feb. 19

WHO COLLECTS Among Hall's collectors is SpringHill Company CEO Maverick Carter, who tells THR, "From the first time I saw his paintings, I was drawn to how he depicted Black people in a way most don't see us." - EVAN NICOLE BROWN

Friedrich Kunath

In his beautiful yet melancholic landscape paintings — inspired by the German Romantic period and paintings of the American West — Kunath looks at the ideas of home and belonging. Born in the mid-1970s in East Germany, the artist moved to Los Angeles in 2007. "A big part of the concept of the show is my quest of finding home again and just realizing







that it isn't there anymore," says Kunath, who splits his time between Europe and Pasadena. "In a spiritual sense I don't feel home in one place, and I realized early on that that is the engine of my work, this forever quest to define home." Among the pieces in his new show, I Don't Know the Place but I Know How to Get There, at Blum & Poe is the clever Cars & Coffee Los Angeles, which depicts L.A.'s car meetup culture amid the landscape seen in Albert Bierstadt's famed 1864 painting Valley of the Yosemite. "I go to these [car enthusiast] meetings in Griffith Park, And it's a little bit funny [seeing] all these cars with the sublime nature," says Kunath, who sees L.A. as "a complicated city full of substance but also full of surface. I think this is still the best city for an artist to step into — this roller coaster of never-ending dualities and paradoxes that it holds." WHERE 2727 S. La Cienega Blvd., WHO COLLECTS "Friedrich's work is

through Feb. 25

the perfect ethos of Los Angeles — brightness and noir," says Endeavor executive chairman Patrick Whitesell. "It drew me in because of its romantic view of the world filled with lots of humor and irony."

The THR Guide to L.A.'s Busy Art Week

From Culver City and DTLA to Hollywood and Santa Monica, five fairs are unspooling across L.A.

Frieze Los Angeles — which has moved to a new location at Santa Monica Airport after stints at Paramount Studios and a tent in Beverly Hills runs Feb. 16 to 19 in the Barker Hangar as well as in a massive tent specially designed by WHY



Architecture The airport spot says Christine Messineo, fair director of Frieze, Americas, "allows us to expand both our physical imprint but also our ambition." This year, a record 120-plus galleries are participating, while Frieze Projects

will showcase sculptures and installations such as Chris Burden's monumental 40 Foot Stepped Skyscraper and Ruben Ochoa's Class C. a mobile art gallery housed inside his family's former tortilla delivery van. Additionally, five off-site activations, shepherded by Jay Ezra Nayssan of the nonprofit Del Vaz Projects, are planned, including a show of work by the late artist **Julie Becker** exhibited inside the Santa Monica childhood home of Shirley Temple. General admission tickets start at \$102, frieze.com ... The LA Art Show is back for its 28th edition at the L.A. Convention Center, running through Feb. 19 and featuring more than 120 galleries, including 14 from South Korea and six from Japan. Tickets from \$30, laartshow.com. Felix LA returns for its fifth time to the Hollywood Roosevelt, with galleries set up in cabana rooms as well as on two floors in the hotel tower. Expect a party atmosphere around the hotel's famed David Hockney-painted swimming pool. Tickets from \$40, felixfair.com ... The Spring/Break Art Show LA welcomes visitors to Skylight Culver City through Feb. 19, featuring around 60 exhibitions put together by independent curators. Tickets from \$30, springbreakartshow.com ... A new fair, Photo Forward Los Angeles, runs for two days, Feb. 18 and 19, at Bergamot Station's Danziger Gallery. Free admission, photoforwardla.com

New Galleries

Hauser & Wirth just debuted its new West Hollywood space featuring People Are Strange, a show of works by George Condo. 8980 Santa Monica Blvd., hauserwirth.com ... Located in part of a home/art studio built 25 years ago by artist Jose Pardo, the new Sea View gallery in Mount Washington recently opened its inaugural exhibit. a group show titled River Styx. Appointment only, sea-view.us ... Downtown's François Ghebaly gallery has just opened a second location in West Hollywood featuring Liquid Clay, a sculptural installation by artist Patrick Jackson. 1109 N. Poinsettia Place, ghebaly.com — D.F



Edward and Nancy Reddin Kienholz's sculpture The Potlatch will be on display at L.A. Louver's Frieze booth.