

Introducing: Martha Demson



Chloe Madriaga and Sang Kim in "the bauhaus project." (Photo by Francisco Hermosillo III)

The Bauhaus school opened in 1919 in Weimar as an exciting location to explore new approaches to design. A hundred years later, playwright Tom Jacobson and director Martha Demson sought to capture that moment and investigate what led to its closing.

Jacobson's "the bauhaus project," a two-part performance that looks at the school's transformations in the face of increasing Nazi scrutiny, makes its world premiere with Open Fist Theatre at Atwater Village Theatre this month.

"When you look at the school of art and design that had all of these luminary figures there working on their own work and collaborating, they were also faced with all sorts of political hurdles, and most particularly, the rise of the National Socialist Party which ultimately shut them down," Demson said.

In ‘the bauhaus project,’ the story is told through five modern-day art and design students from a school Demson describes as “a mashup of CalArts and Art Center.” As they discover and present new information about the school’s foundations and obstacles, a story about the responsibility of design surfaces.

“These students are all on probation for having been uncollaborative, and through the process of researching this art movement, they decide to present their findings, not as a PowerPoint, but as a play,” she said.

In the students’ research, they discover anti-semitism and white supremacy shaping the Bauhaus history. The school’s development is framed by the growing Nazi regime. Suddenly, a more poignant story about Bauhaus design pops out.

“If you look at some of the lamps and the chairs and the other things that were designed at the school, they’re beautiful, and they certainly inform our modern esthetic in ways that we might not even be aware of,” she said. “But again, on a social side, on a political side, there’s stuff that’s alarming.”

Consider this a morality play... but through art. What morality could art hold?

The play is multidimensional in this way. The artists depicted in the story must face the intersection of arts and morality, as do the actors performing and the artists who view it.

“What does it mean to be an artist who is living in a world that is becoming increasingly divided politically, where a vision of humanity is shared, and humanity is perhaps being lost?” Demson questioned.

The tension between art and authoritarianism is a constant throughout history, and “the bauhaus project” takes a humorous approach to making it known.

LOCATION: 3269 Casitas Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90039

DATES: July 12 - August 25

PRICE: \$35 - \$50

LINK: <https://openfisttheatre.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/>



Installation view of Jongsuk Yoon's "Yellow May" at Marian Goodman Los Angeles. (Photo by Elon Schoenholz)

'Jongsuk Yoon: Yellow May' & 'Interconnected Landscapes' @ Marian Goodman

Jongsuk Yoon's first solo exhibition at the Marian Goodman Gallery features works on paper, canvas, and walls that depict dreamlike color fiends that reflect her interests in American Modernism and East Asian traditions. The exhibition will also be in conversation with the group show "Interconnected Landscapes."

LOCATION: 1120 Seward St., Los Angeles, CA 90038

DATES: July 13 - August 17

TIME: On view 10 am - 6 pm Tues. thru Sat.

PRICE: Free

LINK: <https://www.mariangoodman.com/exhibitions/jongsuk-yoon-los-angeles>

Disney '80s - '90s Celebration in Concert @ The Hollywood Bowl

Take a blast to the past with the Hollywood Bowl's Disney flashback celebration featuring the music of the iconic Disney films from the 1980s and 90s. Tunes from movies like "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast," and "A Goofy Movie" will be performed by stars like Corbin Bleu, Aisha Jackson, and Adam J. Levy. It's a night you won't want to miss.

LOCATION: 2301 Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90068

DATES: July 19 - 20

TIME: 8 pm

LINK: <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/events/performances/2940/2024-07-19/disney-80s-90s->

Things: New Exhibition Openings

If you like to be ahead of the conversation, catching up on the latest exhibition openings will make you *the* person with all the recommendations. This weekend has a few promising openings. Check 'em out and tell me (and your friends) what you think!

- **Lowell Ryan Projects openings:** There will be an opening reception at the Mid-City art gallery for James Busby's "Busby Electric" and Richard Dupont's "7 Islands." The opening reception is from 6 - 8 pm on July 20. **PRICE:** Free / **LINK:** <https://www.lowellryanprojects.com/>
- **'(Be)Longing: Asian Diasporic Crossings':** Glendale Library, Arts & Culture and ReflectSpace Gallery present a new exhibition that explores the multi-generational afterlives of war and displacement, and East-West Asian diasporic placemaking. The opening reception is from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on July 27. **PRICE:** Free / **LINK:** <https://www.reflectspace.org/post/be-longing>
- **'Of Sea and Sky':** This immersive exhibition features a video work by Rebeca Méndez and large-scale print works by Stephen Nowlin at Mount Wilson Observatory. The opening reception is from 1 - 5 pm on July 20. **PRICE:** Free / **LINK:** <https://www.mtwilson.edu/events/ofseaandsky/>

Meme of the Week



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