

ARTICLES

Best of 2017: Our Top 10 Los Angeles Art Shows

This year Los Angeles showcased especially diverse and robust exhibitions, thanks in part to an enormous initiative around Latin American and Latino art.

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(image by Hrag Vartanian for Hyperallergic)

Many of this year's best shows in Los Angeles came out of the [Getty's Pacific Standard Time](#) programming, which funneled \$16.3 million dollars into the display of Latin American and Latino art. The participating museums, galleries, and other art spaces used this money to [put together surprising, rigorous shows](#) that

addressed overlooked pockets of art history and lesser-known artists. The programming shined a light on the city's diverse, robust spaces and the potential for them to collaborate in the growing local art scene.

3. Jimmie Durham: *At the Center of the World* at the Hammer Museum

January 29–May 7



Installation view of *Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World* at the Hammer Museum (photo by Hrag Vartanian for Hyperallergic)

Jimmie Durham may have been the center of controversy this year (don't get me started about the curator's statement about the issue), but it doesn't distract from the quality of his art, the strong curation, and the overall fantastic exhibition that was organized at the Hammer Museum. The show highlighted why his work matters in larger conversations in contemporary art that revolve around lineage, authority, and power. Durham focuses on the foundation of US identities, but he avoids reducing the issues and keeps us asking what the term Native American — which was only popularized as an “ethnic” or racial identity in early-19th-century US — really means and how it can limit the imagination of

non-Native American audiences. —*Hrag Vartanian*