

5 Not-to-Be-Missed Los Angeles Solo Shows



COURTESY THE PIT, LOS ANGELES

Jennifer Rochlin, *Summer*, 2020.

Jennifer Rochlin

The Pit

September 15 – October 24, 2020

Trained as a painter, Jennifer Rochlin began working with clay in 2007 and now exclusively works with the medium. Best known for her hand-built, coiled vessels that are amorously shaped and glazed with imagery that wraps around the surface of the clay, Rochlin creates figurative narratives that evoke memories and meaningful moments in her life. Installed on plinths to present an immersive environment, the artist's charming ceramics offer a fresh outlook for the age-old art of storytelling.

One of her colorful pots depicts musicians Joni Mitchell and Stevie Nicks performing in nature, as though Rochlin is mixing memories of seeing them with thoughts of listening to them when on a walk outdoors. The pots *Coyote and Marmots* and *Griffith Park Horses* capture Los Angeles wildlife in the city's parks. And *Summer* recalls time spent reading in bed, biking by the water, and making love, while *My Friends' Dogs: Dolly, Denise, and Reggie* lovingly portray man's best friend in nature.



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Installation view of *Jennifer Rochlin* at The Pit.

“When I first moved to LA eighteen years ago, I lived in an apartment at the top of Elysian Heights in Echo Park,” Rochlin said in a 2018 *Curator* interview. “It was a block away from Elysian Park and I probably walked or ran in that park every day for the sixteen years that I lived there. A lot of my work deals with the memories that come from a location in time, and that park was the landscape for my life through breakups and having children. It was a real constant in my life, and it often reappears in my work.”

However, two new pots that explore the unusual technique of biting into the outer surface of the clay and then glazing it to look like sores and bruises—a process that she discovered during a residency in France a few years back—take the artist down an experimental path not previously traveled. *Bites and Bruises (#4)* looks as much like flower petals blowing in the winds as it does wounds to the body and *Community Bites (Cal State Long Beach Ceramic Arts)* makes the idea of leaving teeth marks seem like fun—where the more there are, the merrier the outcome.