

The Anti-Frieze: The Best Art Shows to See Outside the Fairs

With Frieze descending on L.A. THR picks other cool exhibits to catch, including three new galleries and artist collabs with Saint Laurent and Jay-Z.

BY MICHAEL SLENSKE  FEBRUARY 23, 2024 10:00AM



Adam Miller and Devon Oder at The Pit in Los Angeles' Atwater Village LANCE GERBER/COURTESY THE PIT



While **Frieze Los Angeles**, Felix and Spring/Break **Art Show** will certainly be the draw of the international collecting crowd descending upon the city for L.A. Art Week (Feb. 26 to March 3), there are plenty of **local** artists, galleries and events taking place outside an overcrowded tent or booth that are equally worthy of attention.

THR rounded up some of our favorite art happenings in and around the city — from two psychedelic painters turning their visions into wearable art to a group of Mexican-American artists taking over Jeffrey Deitch Gallery — so you'll have other nice things to look at when you leave the Frieze VIP section.

The Pit Moves to Atwater



Andrew Sexton's *Southwest of Heaven*, part of the group show *Halfway to Sanity* at The Pit. JEFF MCLANE

In 2014, artist couple Adam Miller and Devon Oder took over a mechanic's garage in Glendale, complete with an oil change pit, to create a curatorial platform for themselves. "We weren't trying to be a commercial gallery, so we named it The Pit because it didn't sound so serious; it could have been a punk club," says Miller. Over a decade, however, **The Pit** has become a very serious operation, opening a second space in Palm Springs and now representing 25 artists, whom they've placed in some of the top collections in Los Angeles and abroad.



Paul McCarthy & Ben Weissman, 'Never Digested #5', 2006, paint marker on paper © PAUL MCCARTHY AND BENJAMIN WEISSMAN. COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS AND HAUSER & WIRTH

Now the couple is leveling up again, leaving Glendale for a 12,500-square-foot space in Atwater Village with three galleries and a shop purveying books and editions. It opens Feb. 24 with a two-person drawing show from longtime collaborators Paul McCarthy and Benjamin Weissman and a massive group show, *Halfway to Sanity*, featuring 50 artists who've shown at The Pit over the years. "A big part of this expansion is to be able to work with more historical and institutional artists on more substantial projects," says Miller. "We want to show the emerging and mid-career artists with the artists who inspired them." *3015 Dolores St., Atwater Village*