



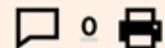
Collecting

+ Add to myFT

# LA's indie spaces give the mega-galleries a run for their money

They are popping up everywhere from a former mechanic's garage to a home in the Santa Monica hills

Julie Baumgardner FEBRUARY 10 2023



## Receive free Collecting updates

We'll send you a *myFT Daily Digest* email rounding up the latest Collecting news every morning.

To understand the arts in Los Angeles is to look at the city's architecture and infrastructure — or the lack thereof, long decried by artists. It's a city which has been rich in space and art, but not art spaces. Independent art galleries and platforms have led the charge to transform the sprawling landscape by using unusual or unexpected locations.

“There's tons of different types of spaces that people are doing programming out of,” says artist and gallerist Adam D Miller of The Pit, which is housed in a former mechanic's shop.

Spaces are broadly construed: poolside, garages, disused lots, apartments, gardens, empty storefronts, private homes . . . It's through this architectural diversity that these independent art spaces fold back into LA itself, its history and current communities. Their impact? The art of sharing the city with one another.

## **The Pit**

As an artist-run space, co-founded and run by Miller and Devon Oder, The Pit in Glendale has exhibited more than 800 artists since its inception in 2014 and now represents a market-hot roster (such as Liz Markus and Devin Troy Strother). “We bring a different context to the art we show,” Miller says. As it approaches its 10th anniversary, still in its original space, The Pit manages the balance between commercial viability and being “small and scrappy”, as Miller says.



Two works by Devin Troy Strother: 'the undercover brother / fixing to go the rally' (2021) ...



...and 'studio visit, lemme see ya face / self portrait #1' (2021) © Photo by Jeff McLane, courtesy the artist/The Pit (2).

As a participant in art fairs such as Frieze LA, Armory NY and NADA Miami, The Pit has led the pack for alternative art spaces in Los Angeles. “Ten years ago artist-run spaces probably didn’t interact with collectors very much at all,” says Miller. And now? “We aren’t just cool, but doing business, like, actually have a client base and are making deals.” One of The Pit’s artists has even started to work with Almine Rech, a much bigger operation.

“There’s so much opportunity and room to work together,” says Miller.

[the-pit.la](http://the-pit.la)