

### Top 3 This Week

*Let Lindsay Preston Zappas curate your art viewing experiences this week. Here are our Top 3 picks of what not to miss. Scroll down for Insider stories.*



## 1. “Above & Below” at Shoshana Wayne Gallery

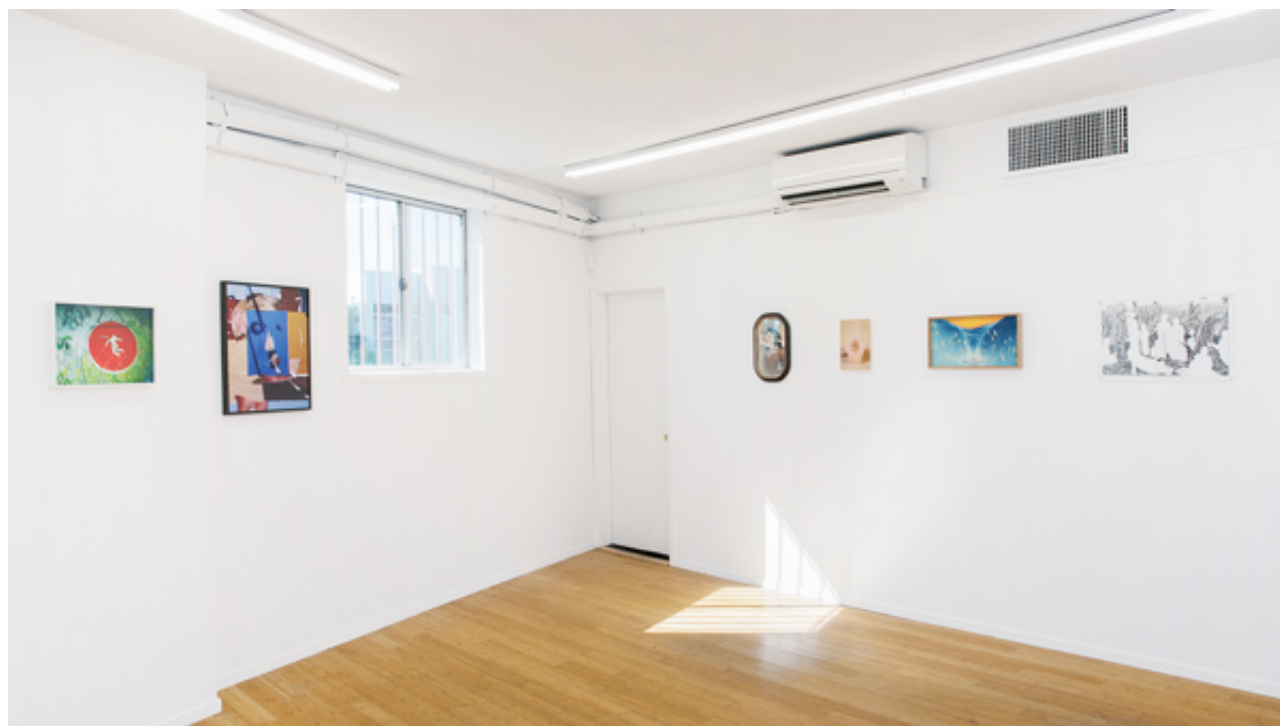
Tucked into an unassuming building in West Adams, Shoshana Wayne Gallery’s new exhibition “Above & Below” unabashedly celebrates the medium of craft. Craft techniques have been on the rise in recent years, as ceramics and weaving—once taboo in the contemporary art gallery—become regular counterparts to painting and sculpture. This exhibition takes craft mediums even further, throwing beading, applique, and felting into the mix.

Each work on view is a microcosm of technique and skill, and the beaded works of French artist Yveline Tropéa are no exception. Her beautifully constructed beaded tapestries depict invented narratives that deal with the tradition of voodoo. Her

fantastical compositions are met with the whimsy of Terri Friedman’s textural weavings and the festivity of Max Colby’s somewhat phallic beaded sculptures. More subdued work by Gil Yefman—a stunning grayscale floral still-life made by needle felting—and Frances Trombly—monochrome woven fabrics that slump over wooden supports—bring the focus back to the wide-ranging craft techniques that connect the artists on view.

On view: June 15 – August 28, 2021 | [Open map](#)

### [Shoshana Wayne Gallery](#)



## 2. “I Am Not This Body” at Tyler Park Presents

In Silver Lake, Tyler Park Presents has invited curators Juliana Paciulli and Evan Whale to organize its summer group show. Both photographers (Whale is represented by the gallery) he two drew inspiration from a text written by the late artist Barbara Ess. Whale studied with Ess as a student at Bard College, and the exhibition is a sentimental remembrance of the influential teacher and artist.

“I AM NOT THIS BODY. But I am. Aching and full of longing,” Ess’ text begins. “I am something

that cannot be photographed, cannot be named, defined, translated.” The curation picks up on the theme of bodies being broken down and reassembled. Daniel Gordon’s “Blue Face II” is a photographic collage: bits of pixelated imagery are hodge-podged with ripped paper to create a Frankensteined face, one eye of which is made by a shadow being cast by an unseen object behind the camera. Several other photographers featured—Andrea Chung, Tommy Kha, Evan Whale, Jessica Wimley—pick up this technique of ripped, torn, or cut picture making. The sole figurative work, by Young Joon Kwak, is isolated to a small side gallery where her “*Lying Hermaphroditus*,” a body cast from the back half of a figure that leans delicately against the wall, is the show’s punctum. The sculpture is both a body and a husk-like shell—a fractured stand-in for the vulnerability of the human form.

On view: June 12 – July 31, 2021 | [Open map](#)

### [Tyler Park Presents](#)



### 3. “The Beatitudes of Malibu” at David Kordansky Gallery

A packed multi-generational show at David Kordansky Gallery celebrates nature and the sublime. Artworks from the early 1900s, by Millard Sheets and Charles Burchfield, ground the show in a tradition of plein-air landscape painting, while



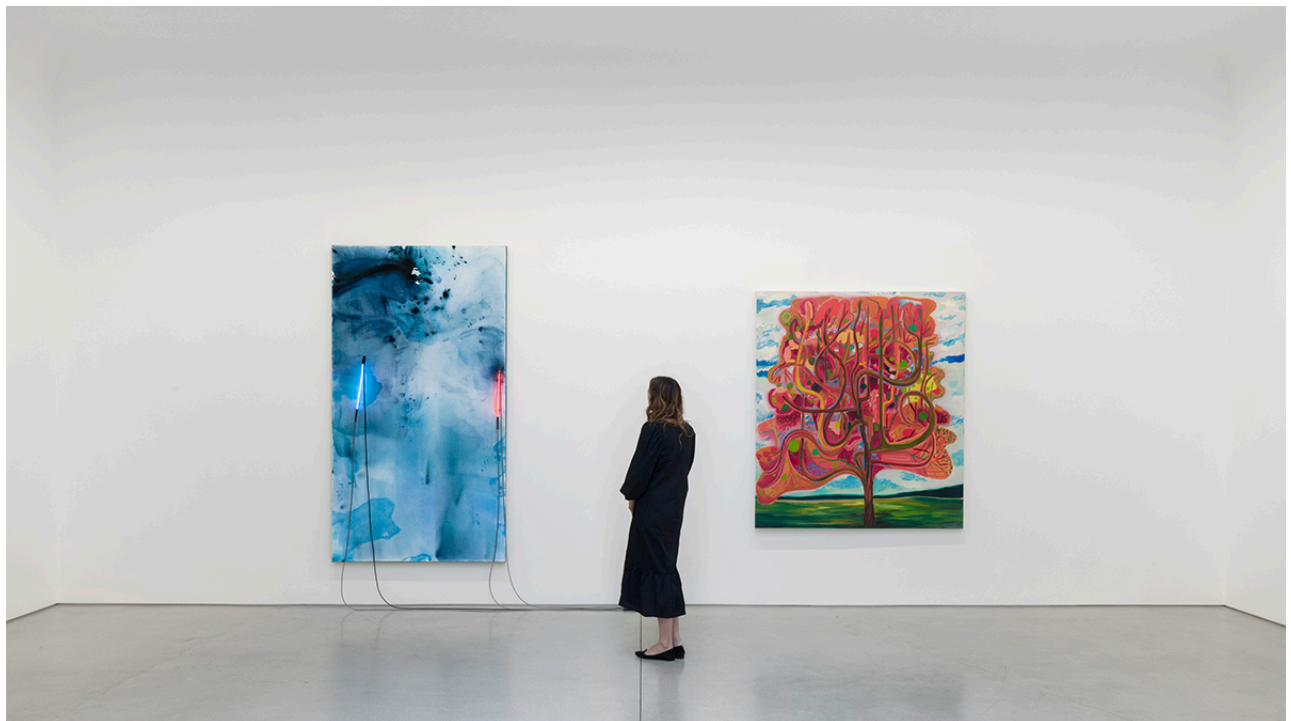
abstractions and more contemporary riffs on the subject matter bring the concept to a more expansive view of nature. The inclusion of one of the gallery's artists, Lauren Halsey, who creates sculptural installations using ephemera found in South Central LA, loops in the urban landscapes of our city.

The exhibition takes its title from a poem (featured in a book of poems published alongside the show) by Rowan Ricardo Phillips that begins in Malibu on the PCH, and dreamily takes the reader through the streets of Downtown before looping back to the coast. The expansive vision of our city—in which the foaming waves of Point Dume contrast the concrete streets of the Fashion District—serves as the starting point for this salon-style exhibition in which depictions of nature can be literal, metaphorical, or even self-reflective (the human mind, of course, is another great landscape ripe for artistic musing).

On view: May 15 – July 2, 2021 | [Open map](#)

[David Kordansky Gallery](#)

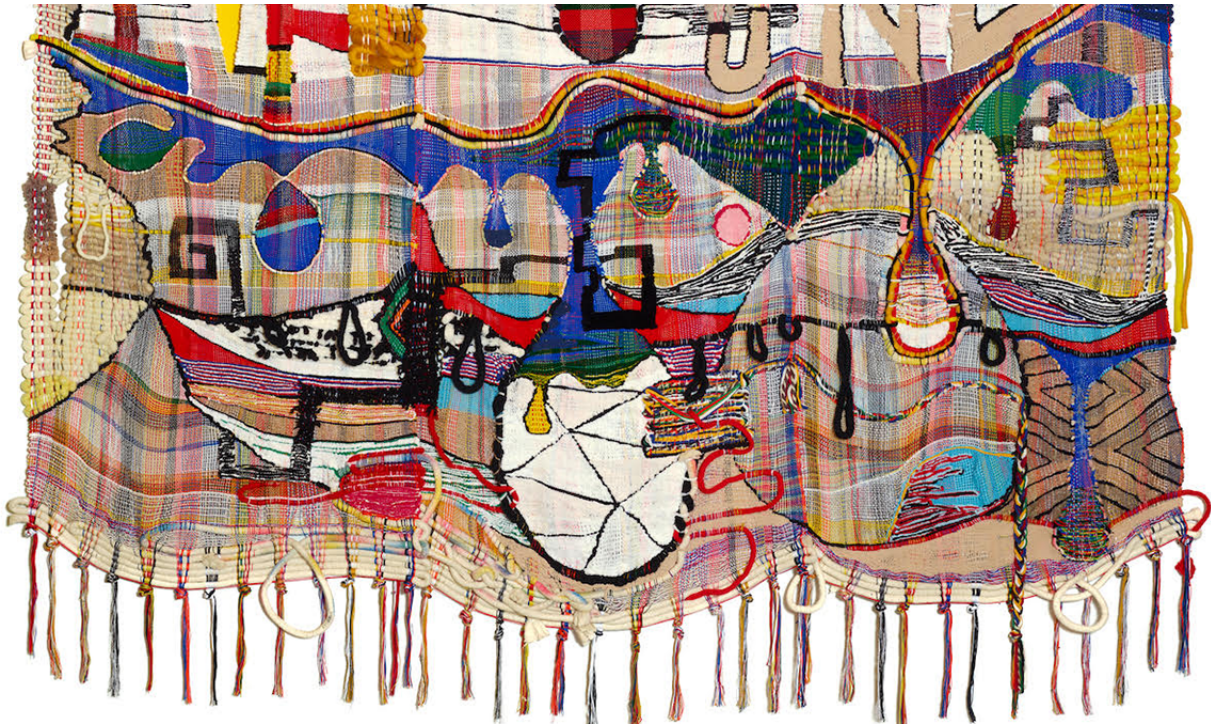
## A Closer Look



## Group Show Season Has Arrived

Every summer, many LA galleries present group shows to try out new artists and catch their breath before the big fall season. The shows often have a cohesive genre or trend — think tracking new modes in painting, or exhibiting a group of female sculptors. Last week I joined Greater LA's Steve Chiotakis to talk about the three shows listed here, and explain why group shows are du jour in the summer months.

[Listen Here](#)



## Pushing the Boundaries of Weaving

Any time I get to stand in front of a Terri Friedman weaving, I feel a rush of excitement — these sumptuous works cannot be fully experienced on a computer screen or iPhone. Two weavings by Friedman anchor “Above & Below,” each offering an exquisite and playful romp through the expanses of possibility on a loom. As she weaves, Friedman blends in tapestry techniques and experiments with her forms, stretching the medium to its limits. Lettering often makes its way into the work in the form of chunky roving that contrasts nearby thin, glittery thread. Large slits in the pieces are sometimes buffered with stained glass shapes, or pieces of acrylic that boldly block color.

Though her experimental weavings are expansive in their technique, Friedman is somewhat new to the medium, and has only been using the loom since 2014. In an interview with the book publisher [Phaidon](#), Friedman explained, “I come from a painting background. So I love paint. Honestly, I just wanted to make hairy voluptuous paintings, and fibre was the obvious direction. I love the sensuality and tactility of fibre. And, the loom is an amazing net to catch and hold my paintings.”

Lindsay Preston Zappas is KCRW's Arts Correspondent and the founder/  
editor-in-chief of [Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles \(Carla\)](#).  
[@contemporaryartreview.la](#)