

The exhibition *Los Angeles, a fiction* presents the work of 34 artists from Los Angeles, of various age: major artists (**Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari, David Hockney, Larry Bell, Robert Irwin...**) alongside younger artists (**Ryan Trecartin/Lizzie Fitch, Alex Israel...**).

This is not a survey of the art history of Los Angeles; nonetheless, a number of the artists in the show are artistic pioneers and icons within the Los Angeles and international art scene. In the late 1950s, filmmaker **Kenneth Anger** introduced into the home of Hollywood his surrealist-inspired experimental films, visually layered and charged with occultism and homoerotic narratives. He is one of the American cinematic icons who later became extremely influential for American filmmakers (**Martin Scorsese, David Lynch, John Waters...**) and the world of music videos.

From the 1960s, which can be seen as the beginning of the "Golden age" of Californian contemporary art, the exhibition includes a work by **David Hockney**, an Englishman who lived in Los Angeles at that time and, with his personal figurative language based on exceptional drawing skills, gave a certain social class in Los Angeles an image of themselves, critical and languid at the same time.

**Billy Al Bengston** adopts military signs and industrial materials and technics related to motorcycles and surfing, introducing a very West Coast look to the pop art.

**Ed Ruscha** looked to the entertainment industry for inspiration, but also to everyday images of gasoline stations and city landscapes, becoming the West Coast representative of Pop.

**Larry Bell**, one of the pioneers of Minimalism, invented, together with **Robert Irwin**, a new type of sculpture termed Light and Space, where they rethought the basic fundamentals of the sculptural object.

**John Baldessari** initiated a personal type of Conceptual painting, emphasising the powerful synergy and relationship between images and texts.

The complexity and the diversity of artistic expression becomes even more accentuated in the 1980s and 1990s, and the artists whom we have selected are among the most innovative in the fields of photography (**John Divola, Catherine Opie**), paintings and sculpture (**Paul McCarthy, Henry Taylor, Charles Ray, Meg Cranston, Laura Owens**) and installations (**William Leavitt, Alexis Smith**).

The beginning of the new century has been a time of innovation, seeing a true effervescence built on the use of new media and an original way of conceptualising narratives inspired by MTV and the popular film and entertainment industry (**Ryan Trecartin/Lizzie Fitch, Nicole Miller, Michele O'Marah, Martine Syms, Tala Madani**). There is also an stimulating continuation of the West Coast sculpture tradition (**Evan Holloway, Kaari Upson, Hannah Greely, Kelly Akashi, Samara Golden, Nancy Lupo**) and a return to painting by artists who explore intuitive expression and the art of deformation related to the body (**Rodney McMillian**), or who revisit and reinvent figurative painting (**Jonas Wood, Alex Israel, Brian Calvin, Math Bass**).



34  
artists

**Kelly AKASHI**

Born in 1983 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Kenneth ANGER**

Born in 1927 in Santa Monica, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**John BALDESSARI**

Born in 1931 in National City, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Math BASS**

Born in 1981 in New York City, NY  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Larry BELL**

Born in 1939 in Chicago, IL  
Lives and works in Los Angeles,  
CA and Taos, NM

**Billy AL BENGSTON**

Born in 1934 in Dodge City, KS  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Brian CALVIN**

Born in 1969 in Visalia, CA  
Lives and works in Ojai, CA

**Meg CRANSTON**

Born in 1960 in Baldwin, NY  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**John DIVOLA**

Born in 1949 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Lizzie FITCH**

Born in 1981 in Bloomington, IN  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Samara GOLDEN**

Born in 1973 in Ann Arbor, MI  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Hannah GREELY**

Born in 1979 in Dickson, TN  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**David HOCKNEY**

Born in 1937 in Bradford, Britain  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Evan HOLLOWAY**

Born in 1967 in La Mirada, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Robert IRWIN**

Born in 1928 in Long Beach, CA  
Lives and works in San Diego, CA

**Alex ISRAEL**

Born in 1982 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Stanya KAHN**

Born in 1968 in San Francisco, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**William LEAVITT**

Born in 1941 in Washington, D.C.  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Nancy LUPO**

Born in 1983 in Flagstaff, AZ  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Tala MADANI**

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Paul McCARTHY**

Born in 1945 in Salt Lake City, UT  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Rodney McMILLIAN**

Born in 1969 in Columbia, SC  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Nicole MILLER**

Born in 1982 in Tucson, AZ  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Michele O'MARAH**

Born in 1967 in Vallejo, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Catherine OPIE**

Born in 1961 in Sandusky, OH  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Laura OWENS**

Born in 1970 in Euclid, OH  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Charles RAY**

Born in 1953 in Chicago, IL  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Ed RUSCHA**

Born in 1937 in Omaha, NE  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Alexis SMITH**

Born in 1949 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Martine SYMS**

Born in 1988 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Henry TAYLOR**

Born in 1958 in Ventura, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Ryan TRECARTIN**

Born in 1981 in Webster, TX  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Kaari UPSON**

Born in 1972 in San Bernardino, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

**Jonas WOOD**

Born in 1977 in Boston, MA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA