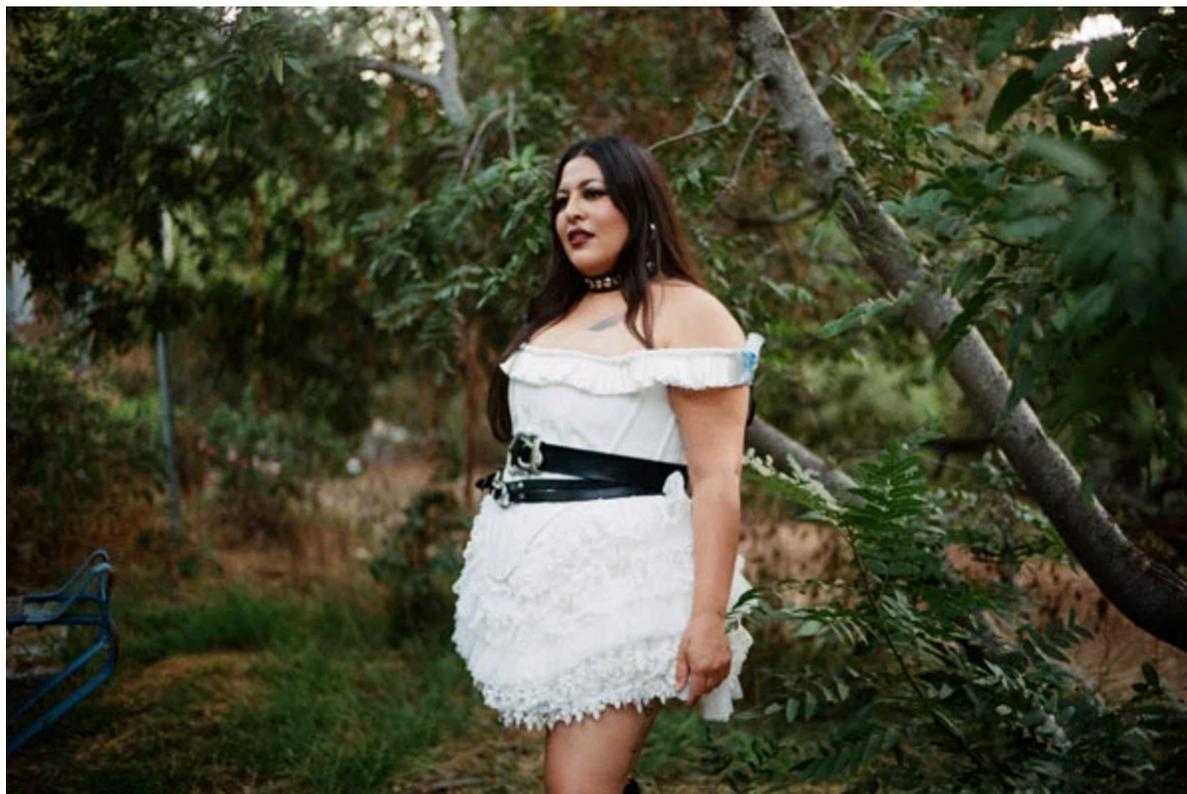


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Hola, Los Angeles:

I'm culture writer **Carolina A. Miranda** with a story about an absolutely enchanting group show at **Tierra Del Sol Gallery**.

But before moving on to that, I just wanted to say that I've spent the last few days feeling incredible anguish for what is [going down in Minneapolis](#) as **ICE agents** wreak havoc on the city. In LA, we know [how destabilizing](#) these raids — which continue [all over SoCal](#) — are in our communities. If you're feeling helpless, **L.A. Taco** has [a guide](#) for how to pitch in.

The cultural arena is also responding. This Saturday, **January 31st**, a pop-up sponsored by the **Robert Gore Rifkind Foundation** titled **Irresistible Resistance** will bring a free performance by the genre-bending LA vocalist [San Cha](#) to [Distrito 14](#), one of the many Boyle Heights eateries that have suffered as a result of ICE raids. There is no cover, but you'll have to [RSVP](#).

In addition, travel, food, and culture magazine ***Roads & Kingdoms*** (which [I've collaborated with](#) in the past) has launched a series of anti-ICE supper clubs — you can support the cause by eating! On **January 31st**, they'll host [an intimate dinner for big rollers](#) with **Chef Daniel Patterson** of **Alta Adams** fame. (That one costs \$1,000 per head.) If, like me, you are much lighter in the wallet, opt for [the cheaper fundraiser](#) on February 3rd at **Guelaguetza** (only \$55). All proceeds go to [Al Otro Lado](#), a refugee-support organization.

Now, back to Tierra del Sol, with additional tidbits about...

- Funding for the **Institute for American Indian Arts**
- **Christian speed painting**
- The student who **ate an AI project**

Keep that cursor moving!

At top, LA vocalist [San Cha](#) will perform in Irresistible Resistance. (Courtesy San Cha)



MAPPING THE REALM

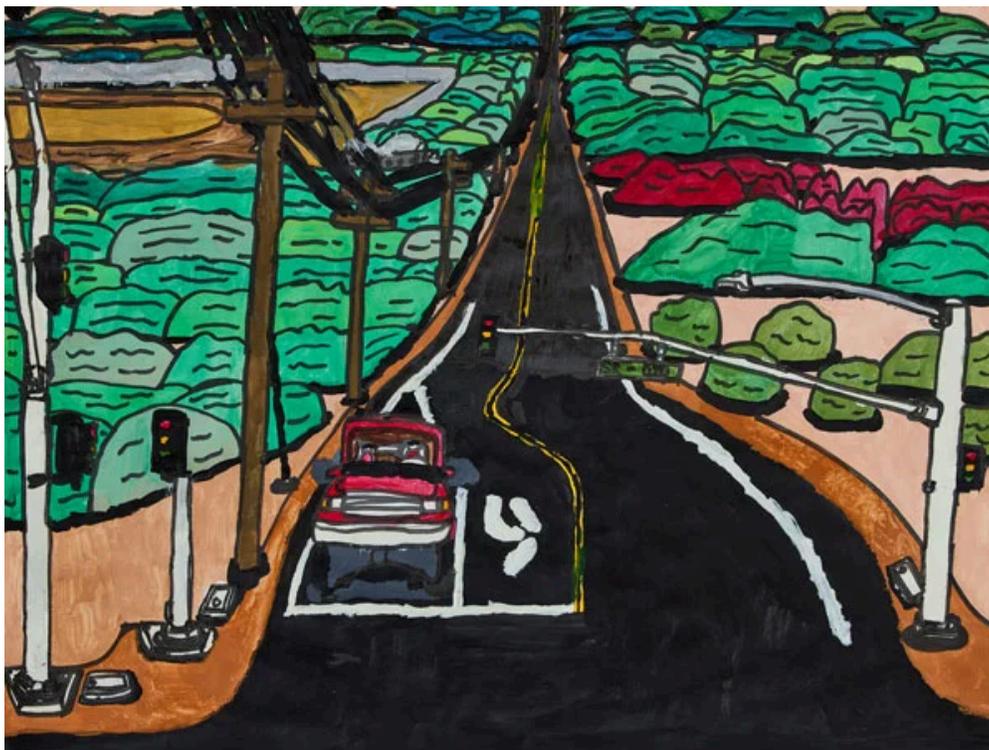


Abram Kahn, Untitled 61 (2022), at Tierra del Sol Gallery. (Abram Kahn / Tierra del Sol Gallery)

Enter **Tierra del Sol's** West Hollywood gallery, and you might be forgiven for thinking you've stepped into a model shop. At the entrance sits a table-top reproduction of **Hogwarts Castle**. On a long shelf just beyond are similarly small-scaled objects: fire trucks, school buses, lowriders, and traffic lights. At one end of the space, you'll find a ghostly doll house; on the other, a two-foot-tall rendering of **Mount Rushmore** crafted out of ceramic.

Look closely, however, and it quickly becomes clear that this is no model shop. Behind Hogwarts, you'll find a pair of 2006 lithographs by the famed [Ed Ruscha](#), showing the **Hollywood sign** in various states of decay. And placed discreetly on a rear wall is a satirical drawing created by the late [Pippa Garner](#), the LA conceptualist known for hilarious diagrammatic drawings that lampooned consumer culture. **Model World**, as this absorbing exhibition is titled, is like plunging into an unreal version of the world around us, a world that is perhaps made more intelligible by being shrunk down to size.

Curated by [Elliott Hundley](#), an LA artist known for producing large-scale pieces that fuse painting with assemblage and collage, the show brings together work by 32 artists from all walks of life: some completely unknown, some very blue chip — all making interesting work. The exhibition is part of an ongoing series organized by Tierra del Sol that invites artists to organize shows at the gallery, which functions as the exhibition arm of the [Tierra del Sol Foundation](#), a not-for-profit that works with adults with developmental disabilities.



David Romero, 165th Street W, 2019. (David Romero / Tierra del Sol Gallery)

Model World is the first such show to incorporate outside artists into the mix. And Hundley’s deft curation smashes the imagined boundaries between “outsider” and other artists. More significantly, it’s just damn compelling — revelling in the uncanny nature of miniatures while exploring concepts like mapping, and what landscape might reveal about an individual life.

Hundley’s framework was inspired, in part, by the work of **David Romero**, a Tierra del Sol artist who frequently draws the intersections he transits and makes small sculptures of traffic lights. “He is doing drawings of his life around the city,” says Hundley. “It’s like an autobiographical mapping. ... They are such beautiful and nuanced and inventive drawings.”

The show presents nearly two dozen of these in the main gallery: brightly rendered on paper, they capture mundane aspects of the California landscape in vivid ways. In one, a Union 76 gas station sits before emerald green hills; in another, a grassy area is rendered in gentle pink. On a ledge below are the artist’s traffic light sculptures, which are crafted out of humble materials like tape and painted paper, presented alongside ceramic sculptures of vehicles by a range of other artists, including **Sucy Ayala, Angel Rodriguez, Abram Kahn, and Jory Drew**. Altogether, it’s a fanciful view of the ways in which Angelenos navigate urban space.



Ellen Schafer, Starter House (Fisher Price), 2024. (Carolina A. Miranda)

From there, the show expands to include both micro and macro views of the places we inhabit — often, in ways that toy with scale. A 2024 sculpture by **Ellen Schafer** takes on domestic space, recreating a small Fisher-Price toy house out of cast foam and orange pigment. Like many of the works in the show, it evokes play and, indirectly, control. Play, notes Hundley, is a way of bringing order to the “unknowable nature of reality.”

Elsewhere, **Vincent Blair** creates teetering, tilting paintings that show deep affection for the city, including a brightly colored work capturing the facade of the **TCL Chinese Theater** on Hollywood Boulevard. Nearby, a wild collage by **Lauren Halsey** takes the concept of the world we inhabit to interplanetary levels, combining images of Egyptian temples and lush gardens with **P-Funk’s Mothership**.



A detail of Lauren Halsey's *Untitled*, 2023. (Lauren Halsey / David Kordansky Gallery)

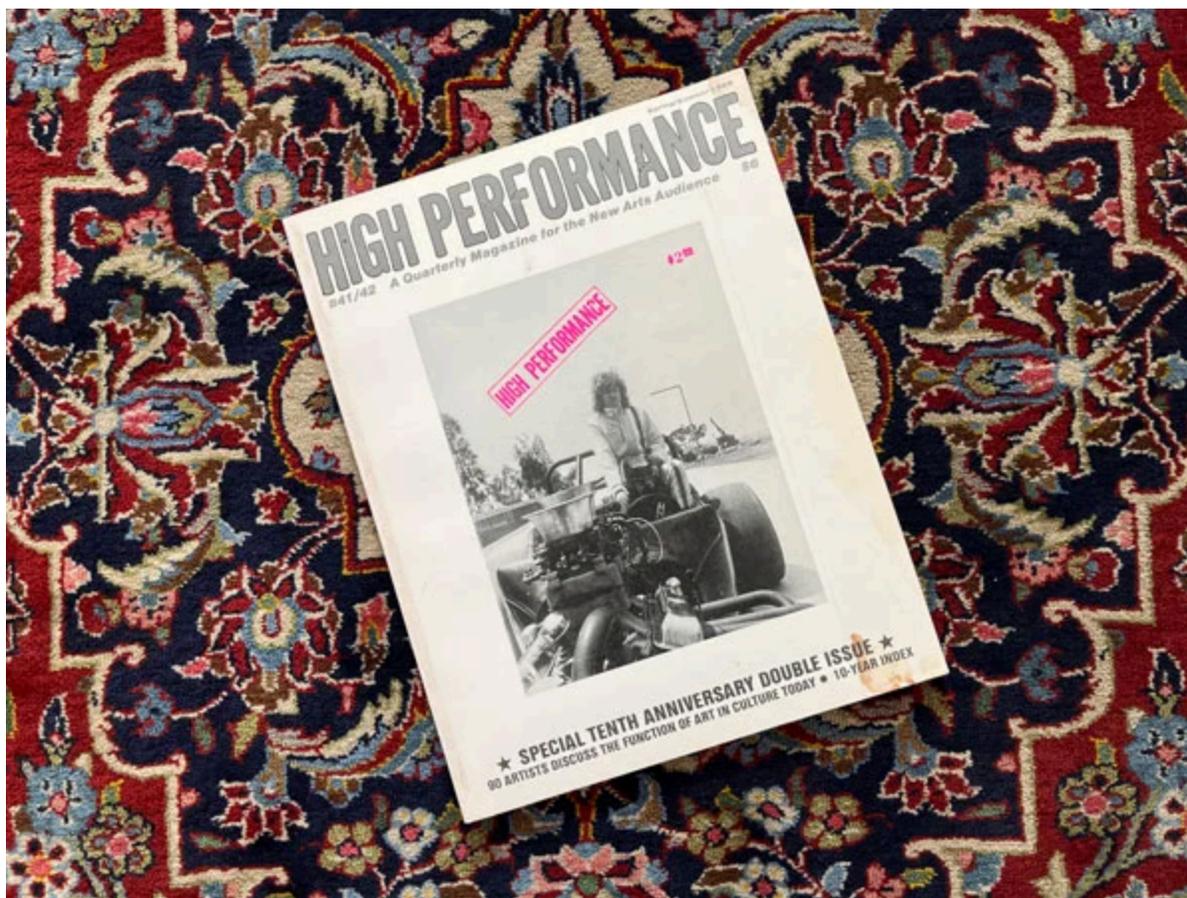
Model World conflates our world with invented worlds — see that Hogwarts castle (also created by Rodriguez). But ultimately, it's a meditation on how people come together in our messy shared spaces: our homes, the streets, the country, the world. Within that messiness, there is tension, but also joy and camaraderie — which, as of late, has been in too short supply.



Model City is on view through March 1st at Tierra del Sol Gallery; tierradelsolgallery.org.



ON MY RADAR



A 1988 copy of High Performance magazine, featuring Suzanne Lacey on the cover. (Carolina A. Miranda)

Rising new LA institution, the **Performance Art Museum**, is hosting a day-long event exploring the legacy of *High Performance* magazine, the [defunct quarterly arts magazine](#) that once assiduously chronicled LA's experimental art scenes. The event will feature appearances by some renowned LA names, including **Bob&Bob**, **Francisco Letelier**, **Nancy Buchanan**, **Los Angeles Poverty Department**, **Suzanne Lacy**, and *many* more. There will also be music and food.

Come together at the **18th Street Arts Center** in Santa Monica this **Saturday, January 31st** at 1 PM. See pamuseum.org for the deets.

AROUND THE INTERNET

- Somali artist **Ifrah Mansour** reflects on [life in Minnesota](#) in *Hyperallergic*.
- **Minnesota art spaces** [closed in solidarity](#) with an anti-ICE strike on January 23rd.
- Whew! Congress has [restored funding](#) for the **Institute of American Indian Arts**, the only college dedicated to the study of contemporary Native American and Alaskan Native art.
- Washington, DC's **Commission of Fine Arts**, which Trump has stacked with his cronies, seems [ready to support](#) his ballroom plan.

- Murals in the **“Sistine Chapel” of the New Deal** — the Cohen Building in DC — could be at risk as the federal government looks to [sell the building](#).
- [A profile](#) of the **Christian speed painter** who performed at Mar-a-Lago on New Year’s Eve.
- Legendary New York gallerist **Marian Goodman**, who later opened a namesake space here in LA, has [died at 97](#).
- **Governor Gavin Newsom** said he was shocked by [the abrupt closure](#) of the **California College of the Arts**.
- **LACMA** has acquired [a sculpture](#) by Cuban surrealist **Agustín Cárdenas**.
- [This essay](#) by novelist **Ben Lerner** about getting heart surgery is wildly evocative.
- **Gideon Jacobs** describes the **MAGA universe** as [the ultimate fan fiction](#).
- Signing off with this interview with **Graham Granger**, the Alaska student who ate [a fellow student’s AI project](#).

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