

Outside-r Art

Art that is outside, outside the law, made by outsiders

The Burbank “B”

There are three "B" words that this letter *might* represent, and nobody actually has definitive proof as to which prevails as the correct beneficiary of this mysterious homage. Burbank's hillside B was originally made of stones, with pictorial proof going back to the 1920s. The Burbank High School Key Club renovated it in the 1970s and other groups, including Leadership Burbank, have since spruced it up, on occasion. The last major renovation was done by the city in 2011 to mark the city's centennial.

The City of Burbank, founded in 1887 and incorporated in 1911, might be the source of the hillside B, though one might wonder what compelled someone to create such a large "B" out of stones, simply to mark the area, without any real impulse other than "wouldn't it be cool if...?"

John Burroughs High School would be the second of the three options to be considered, but this is likely not correct, given that the school, though built in the 1920s, was not dedicated until 1948, after the B had been in existence for at least a couple of decades.

This leaves us with the last, and most likely origin: Burbank High School. Founded in 1908, this is the historically best positioned name.

Irrespective of which of the two schools created the sign, the two Burbank schools regularly express their playful rivalry by painting the letter Blue or Red, the respective colors (along with the ubiquitous white) of Burbank High and Burroughs High.

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-story-behind-this-large-letter-B-on-Verdugo-Mountains>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBzw3gp8dII>



B

fine art
america

Hollywood Heart on the 101

Some who lurk after dark spray graffiti along the freeways of Los Angeles. [Corinne Carrey](#) created a giant botanical heart.

A heap of bougainvillea had been spilling over the top of a retaining wall along the 101 Freeway in Hollywood when in 2013, seemingly by magic, it took the perfect shape of a heart.

The magenta aberration became a staple on Instagram, often with the hashtag #HollywoodHeart. [A photo](#) of it was highlighted in the L.A. Times. But for years, its origins were shrouded in mystery

- <https://medium.californiasun.co/hollywood-heart-990cd00309a>



Simi Valley Happy Face Hill

Perhaps the most visible cultural icon in Simi Valley is "Happy Face Hill" seen by westbound drivers on the [118 freeway just west of Kuehner Drive](#).

Although Northridge gardener Sonny Klamerus does not own the land used to display his creation that has been there since 1998, apparently it is here to stay, even with 66 townhomes in development at the base of the hill.

They say the Happy Face is 150 feet wide, which is half the length of a football field!

I've driven by it dozens of times and was impressed at how nice it looked after the recent rains. The smiley face becomes a bit brown and barren looking, though still visible, for large stretches of the year.

According to [this LA Times article](#), others in the community, including the Rotary Club and other citizens have made adjustments to the smiley face to tidy it up. Others have installed solar lights.

<https://www.conejovalleyguide.com/welcome/happy-face-hill-in-simi-valley-has-brought-smiles-to-118-fre.html>



Chandelier Tree Silver Lake

[https://www.theeastsiderla.com/eastsider on the go/arts and culture/what-s-keeping-silver-lake-s-chandelier-tree-in-the-dark-uncertainty/article 772e56fe-093f-588f-978e-83ab4d04edd4.html](https://www.theeastsiderla.com/eastsider%20on%20the%20go/arts%20and%20culture/what-s-keeping-silver-lake-s-chandelier-tree-in-the-dark-uncertainty/article%20772e56fe-093f-588f-978e-83ab4d04edd4.html)

<https://www.latimes.com/home/la-hm-chandelier-tree-silver-lake-20180929-story.html>



Watt's Towers

- The Watts Towers, Towers of Simon Rodia, or Nuestro Pueblo are a collection of 17 interconnected sculptural towers, architectural structures, and individual sculptural features and mosaics within the site of the artist's original residential property in Watts, Los Angeles. [Wikipedia](#)
- [Artist](#): [Simon Rodia](#)
- Located in: [Simon Rodia State Historic Park](#)
- [Address](#): 1727 E 107th St, Los Angeles, CA 90002
- [Construction started](#): 1921
- [Architect](#): [Simon Rodia](#)
- [Media](#): Steel, Glass, Tile, Porcelain, Mortar, Wire mesh

<https://www.pbs.org/video/laart-watts-towers/>

















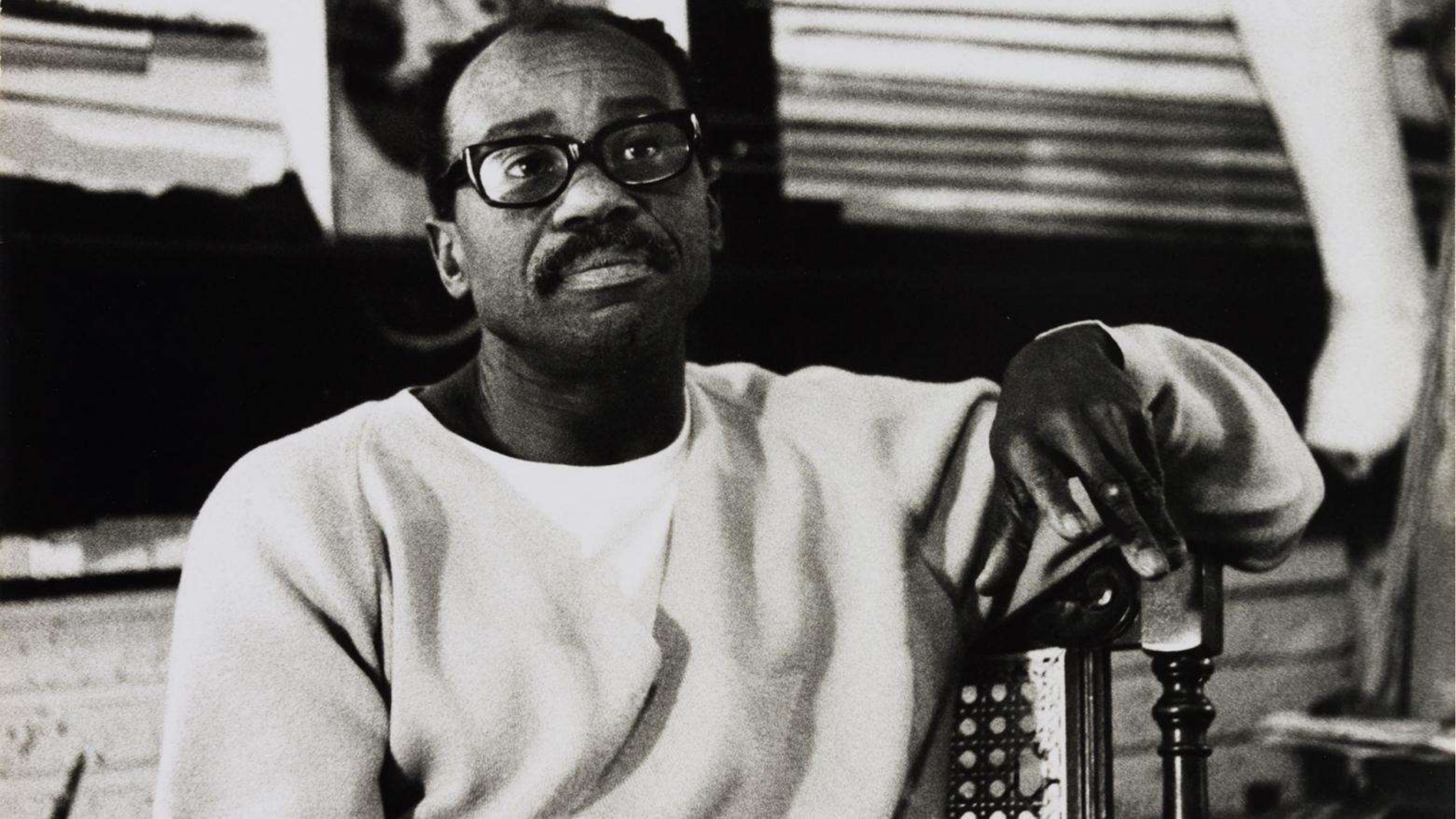
Noah Purifoy (1917-2004)

Noah S. Purifoy was an African-American visual artist and sculptor, co-founder of the Watts Towers Art Center, and creator of the Noah Purifoy Outdoor Desert Art Museum. He lived and worked most of his life in Los Angeles and Joshua Tree, California.

His art practice was sparked after the [1965 Watts rebellion](#), during a charged period in Los Angeles' history of racism. It was August 11, 1965 and a young African-American motorist named Marquette Frye was pulled over by California highway patrolman Lee W. Minikus on suspicion of driving while intoxicated; the incident occurred in Watts, a low-income African-American neighborhood in South Central L.A. Widespread outrage at this act of racial profiling set off a rebellion that took 34 lives, injured more than 1,000, led to the arrest of almost 4,000, and destroyed \$40 million worth of property. Purifoy's first major body of work, "66 Signs of Neon" (1966), was created from the charred debris—burnt wood, broken bottles, and ravaged steel—from that event. The artist would also become the founding director of the Watts Towers Arts Center, a community arts center that opened in 1970.

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-back-from-rebellion-noah-purifoy-s-socially-charged>

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/junk-dada-the-stories-behind-noah-purifoys-joshua-tree-sculptures>

















Yarn Bombing

Yarn bombing (or **yarnbombing**) is a type of [graffiti](#) or [street art](#) that employs colorful displays of [knitted](#) or [crocheted](#) yarn or fiber rather than paint or chalk. It is believed to have started in 2002 in Texas when women wanted to use their scrap yarn to make “inoffensive grafitti”

Yarn bombing was initially about reclaiming and personalizing sterile or cold public places. It has since developed with groups graffiti knitting and crocheting worldwide, each with their own agendas and public graffiti knitting projects being run.

Yarn bombing has become synonymous with the current feminist movement due in part to the reclamation of the traditionally feminine arts of knitting and/or crocheting to partake in the traditionally masculine and male-dominated graffiti scene. Women and girls who make up the yarn bombing subculture are create space for themselves and their art everywhere from college campuses to public parks. This creation and preservation of space is what motivates some of the participants, some of whom have never been able to access a political art space before. In her article about yarn bombing, Joanna Mann explains the balance between the art and politics, "Yarn bombing, I argue, does more than feminize the city, for the whimsy with which it is imbued has the capacity to increase our attentiveness to habitual worlds in a series of micro-political gestures."

<http://www.yarnbombinglosangeles.com/>

YARN BOMBING LOS ANGELES





Julie Kornblum

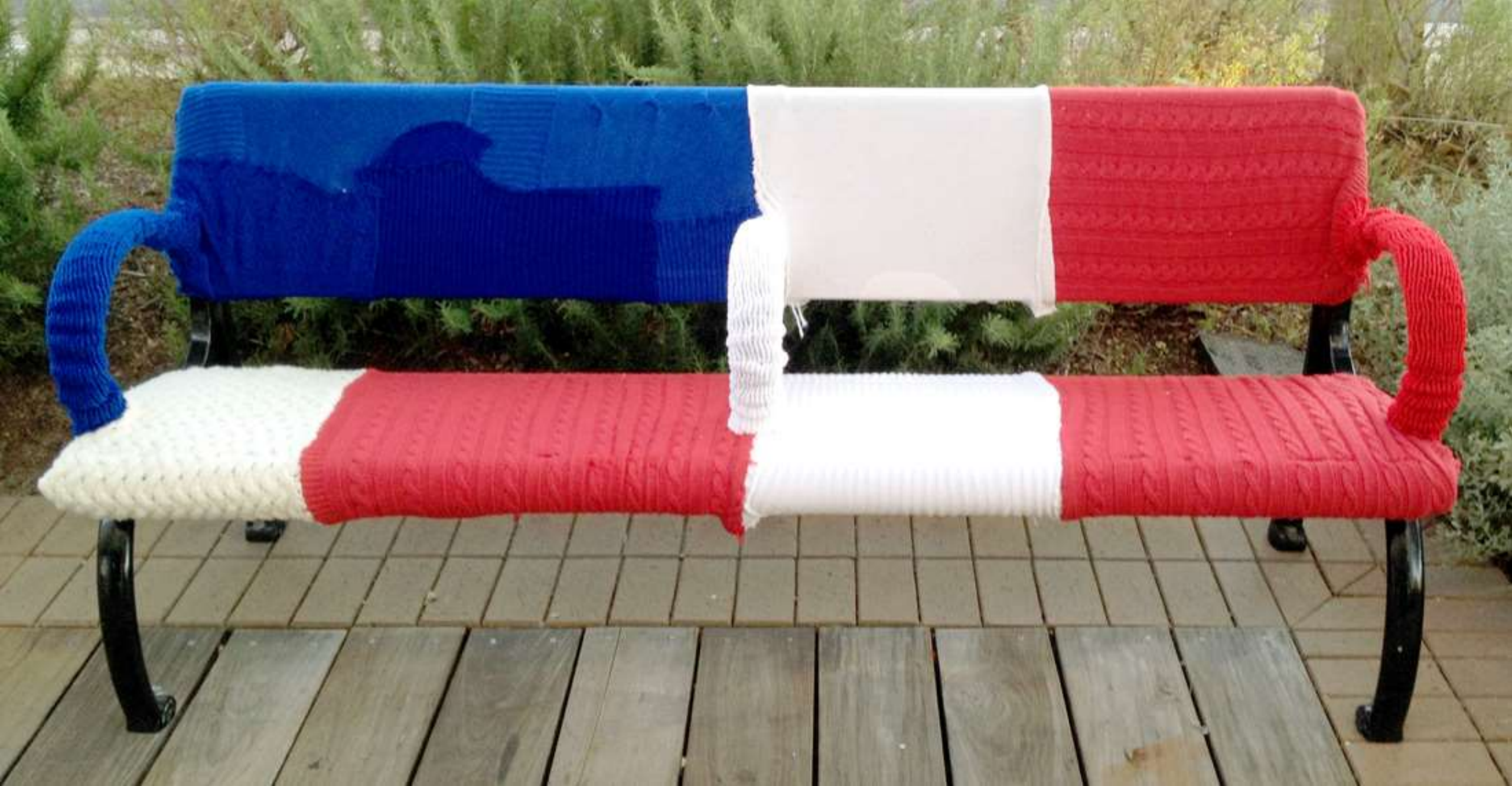
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjwaRWwPRDU>

<https://juliekornblum.com/index.html>



<https://www.odaworx.com/projects/yarnopolis-grand-central-market-los-angeles/>































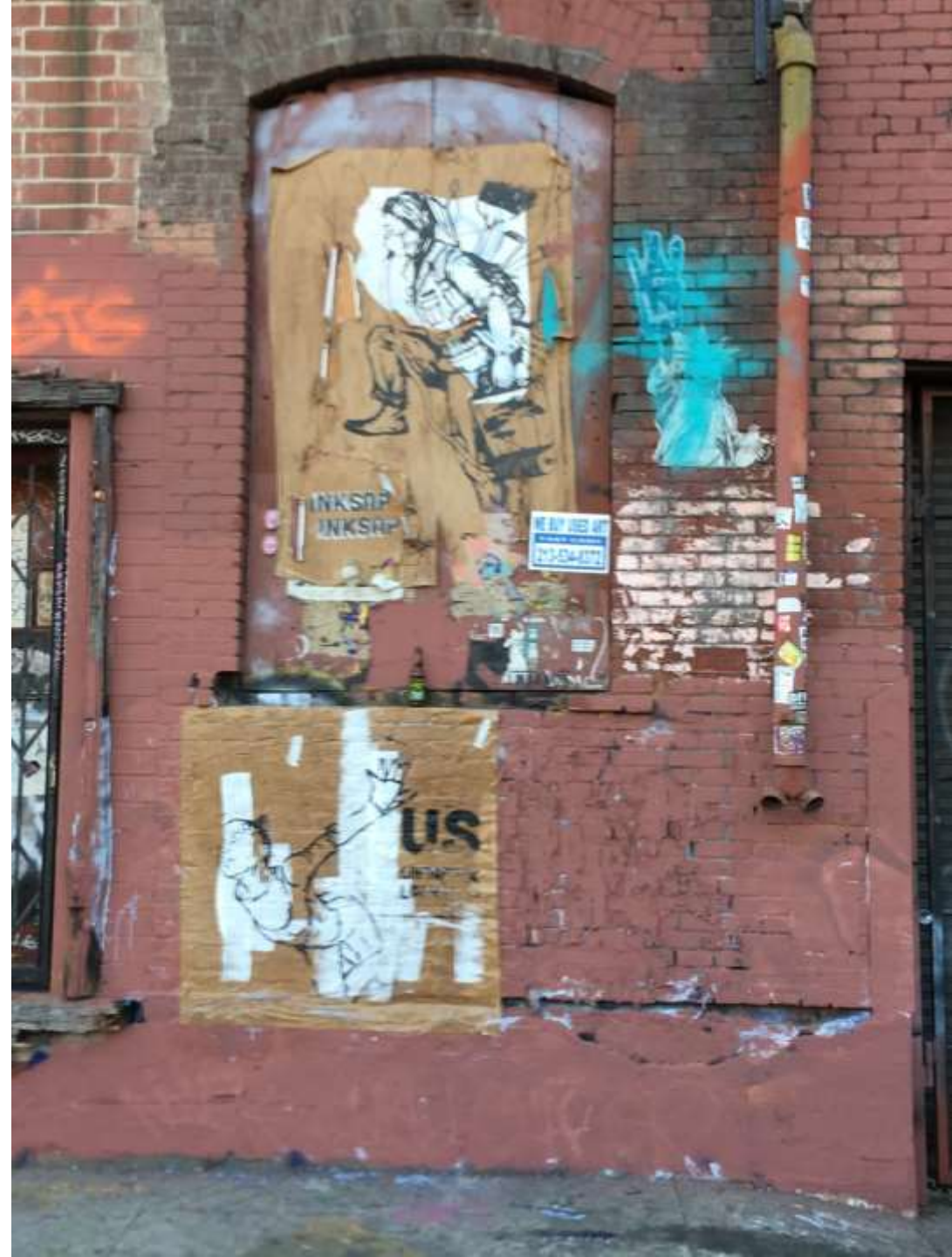




Project Us

- <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-ca-cm-inksap-linda-lack-20190314-story.html>
- <https://www.10news.com/news/national/street-artists-graffiti-on-dancers-building-leads-to-unlikely-friendship-and-a-documentary>
- <https://lindalack.com/project-us/>
- <https://lindalack.com/about/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fUNAnBA1Gs>
- <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1456976642/project-us>

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Assignment Suggestions

- Create an artwork inspired by your favorite Outside-r art.
- Create your own Outside-r art. Put it where the public can view it—your front yard, a chain link fence, an empty lot, a clearing in a park. It can be made from found objects, painted on cardboard or whatever you like.
- Photograph outside-r art in your neighborhood or somewhere in LA.
- Create an artwork based on the photograph.