

Artists and Community

Making Room for Black Artists in America

Los Angeles

The Underground Museum

Founded by artists Noah and Karon Davis in 2012, The Underground Museum (The UM) is an arts and culture center operating out of four converted storefronts in the Arlington Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. We bring art experiences traditionally reserved for major institutions to diverse audiences for free. We believe that art is an essential part of a vibrant, just, and healthy society and that increasing access to art will inspire, educate, and transform lives.

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/clip/beyond-museum-walls-the-underground-museum>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1012242825918694>

Noah Davis (1983-2015)

Noah Davis was an American painter, installation artist, and founder of the Underground Museum in Los Angeles, CA.

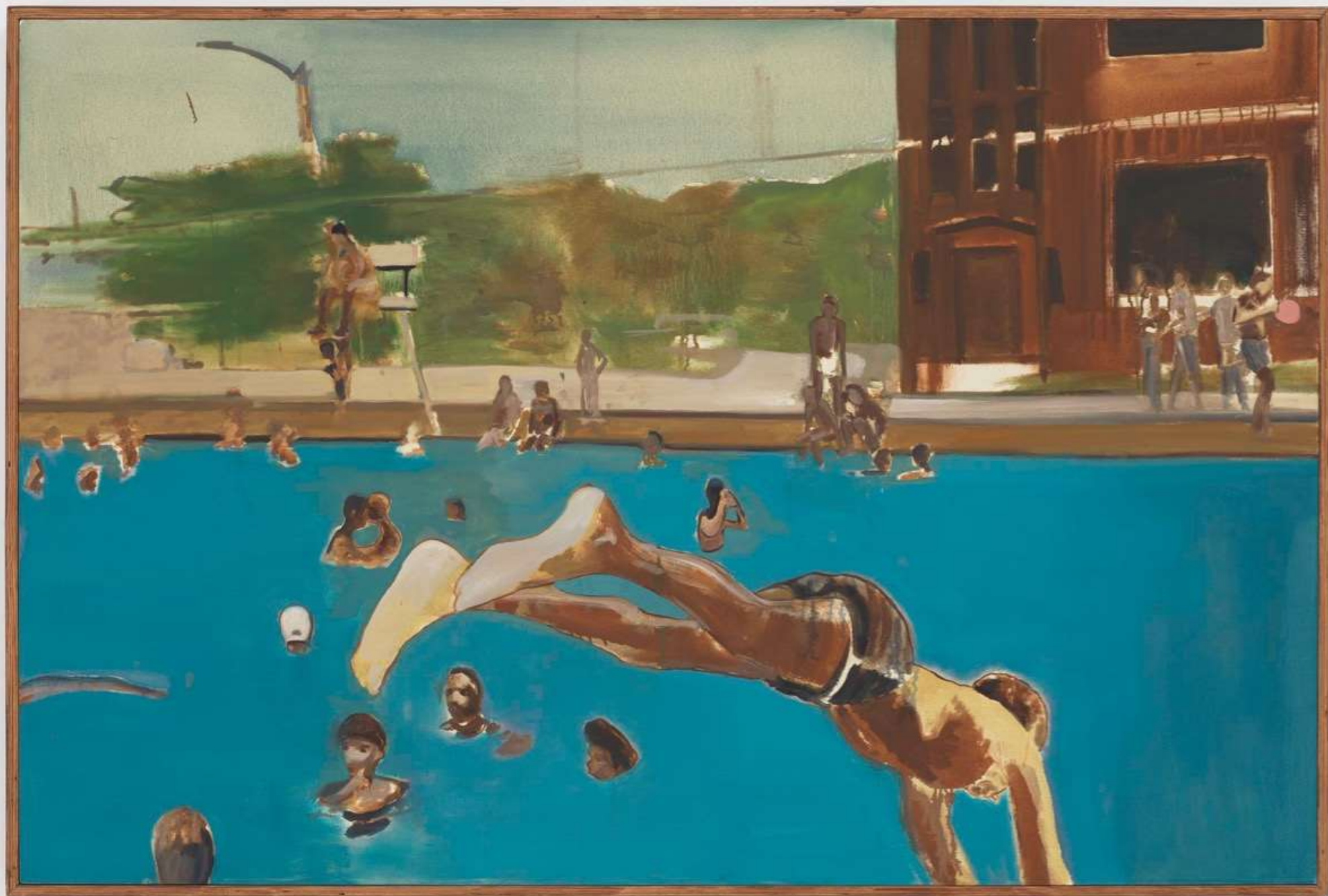
“Ultimately, I want to change the way people view art, the way people buy art, the way they make art. I’ve always tried to balance the tight rope of making my art accessible to those who are aware of the craft, and those who aren’t convinced of art or more specifically my artistic objective. I believe that concealing too much in theory is problematic and that art can function in every day life. I strive for an artistic legacy that not only transcends blackness but confluences and impacts all cultures.”

Noah Davis, Co-Founder
The Underground Museum

- <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/as-underground-museum-reopening-2066518>











Terrell Tilford: Band of Vices

Founded in 2015, Band of Vices is an art and culture company committed to providing a platform to often overlooked creative communities and a narrative through ever-evolving initiatives, including a highly curated exhibition program, culturally relevant strategic partnerships, mission-driven community programming, and more.

Headquartered in the burgeoning West Adams Arts District of Los Angeles, Band of Vices believes in disrupting the limited business model for artists and creatives. The platform most recently launched its BoV collaboration laboratory, (coLAB), a new discovery space for creatives to express themselves through curation, exhibition, performance, and merchandising.

With two spaces, the Sacred House and now coLAB, BoV is further expanding its commitment to provide a platform for those historically undervalued, overlooked or cast aside

Band of Vices embraces uniqueness, diversity, and inclusion.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHbFGzrC7gc>

Grace Lynne Haynes

Grace Lynne Haynes is an American visual artist whose artwork has appeared in numerous solo and group exhibitions; as well as in publications, including multiple appearances on the cover of The New Yorker.

- <https://www.pbs.org/video/grace-lynne-haynes-artist-xavtah/>

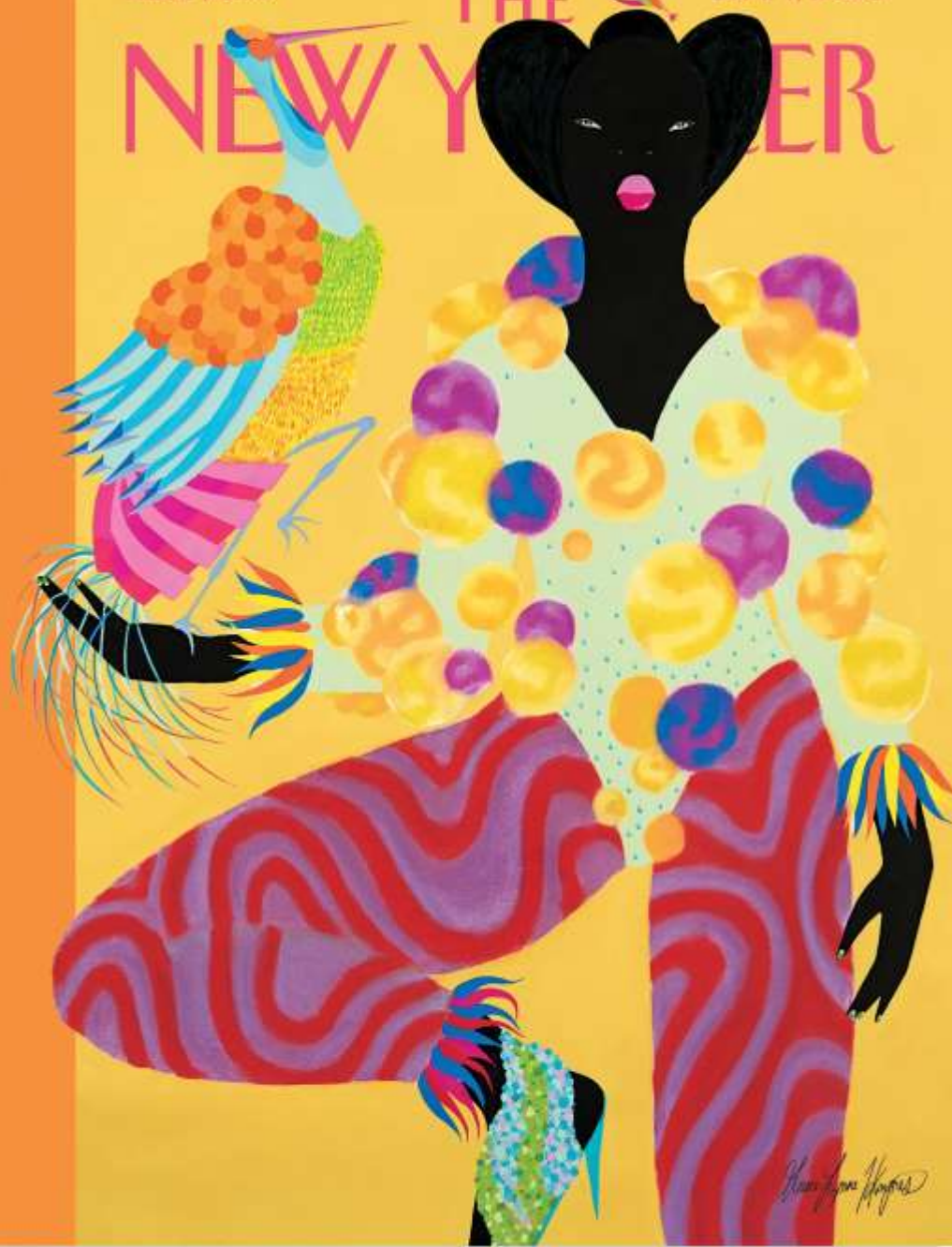


PRICE \$8.99

THE

SEPT. 7, 2020

NEW YORKER



PRICE \$8.99

THE

AUG. 3 & 10, 2020

NEW YORKER







California African American Museum

Founded in 1977, the California African American Museum has a long and rich history. The first African American museum of art, history, and culture fully supported by a state, CAAM was the direct result of a sustained, multiyear campaign of activism undertaken by visionary founders and community members. Its creation was an early and tangible recognition by the State of California of the critically important role African Americans have played in the American West's cultural, economic, and political development.

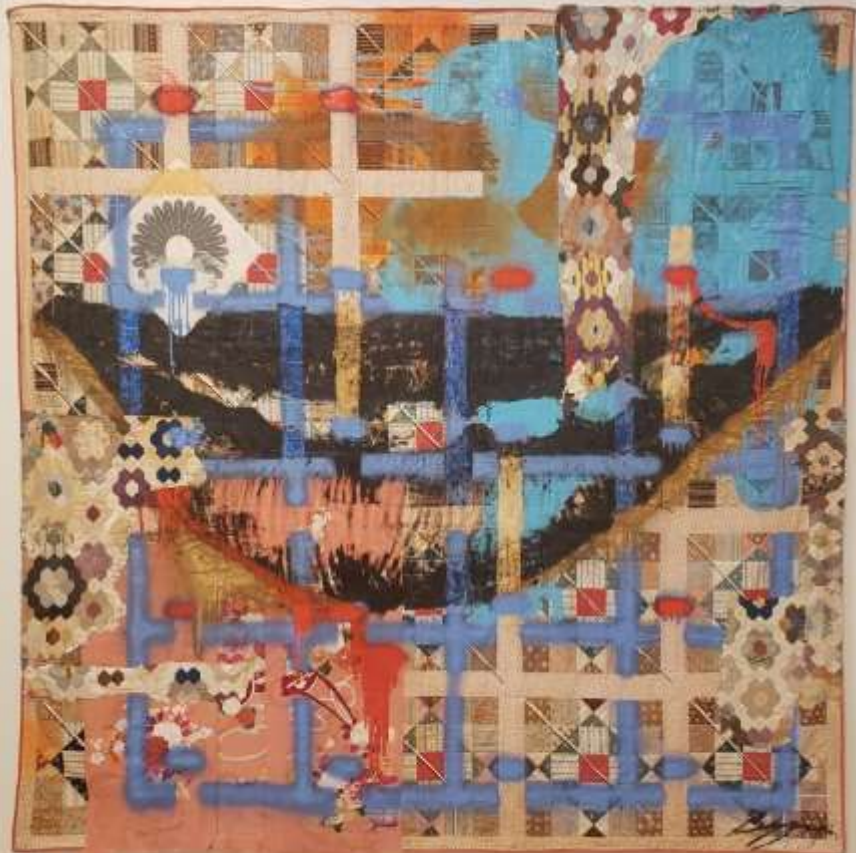
- <https://caamuseum.org/>
- <https://caamuseum.org/learn/600state/black-history/black-history-every-day> (good background video)

Sanford Biggers

Sanford Biggers is a Harlem-based interdisciplinary artist who works in film/video, installation, sculpture, music, and performance. An L.A. native, he has lived and worked in New York City since 1999.

- <https://caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2021/sanford-biggers-codeswitch>







Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Njideka Akunyili Crosby is a Nigerian-born visual artist working in Los Angeles, California. Akunyili Crosby's art "negotiates the cultural terrain between her adopted home in America and her native Nigeria, creating collage and photo transfer-based paintings that expose the challenges of occupying these two worlds".

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeYP8ssD_BM







Los Angeles Galleries

Art +Practice

Conceived and founded by artist Mark Bradford, activist Allan DiCastro, and philanthropist and art collector Eileen Harris Norton, Art + Practice is a private operating foundation based in Leimert Park, Los Angeles. Their mission is twofold: (1) collaborate with a nonprofit social service provider (i.e. First Place for Youth) to support the needs of 18 to 24-year-old foster youth who are transitioning into adulthood, and (2) provide free access to museum-curated contemporary art celebrating artists of color. Art + Practice is currently closed, but still offers virtual tours and panels to the public.

- <https://hammer.ucla.edu/art-practice>

The Crenshaw Dairy Mart

Founded by Patrisse Cullors, Noé Olivas, and Alexandre Dorriz, the Crenshaw Dairy Mart is home to an artist collective and art gallery. The space is dedicated to shifting the trauma-induced conditions of poverty and economic injustice, bridging cultural work and advocacy, and investigating ancestries through the lens of Inglewood and its community. The space currently offers both public art and exhibitions that can be viewed upon appointment.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZDQ8WuDXBo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMjAsOIMOF0>

SON. Studio

Justen LeRoy launched SON. Studio operating within his father's long-standing barbershop in South Central LA. SON. is a platform for the multi-faceted experiences of black men. What started as a one-off photography exhibition is now a series of programming, events, and information sharing. The barbershop and studio space is located at 3733 S Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90018

<https://medium.com/@curate.LA/las-black-owned-galleries-and-art-spaces-af247f7a3210>

Assignment Suggestions...

- Create an artwork that relates to your community or neighborhood
- Experiment with balancing black and color in an artwork