

**Exhibition:** *You Are Here: California Photography Now*

**Dates:** May 5–29, 2023

**Location:** Millard Sheets Art Center | LA County Fair



(Image captions on page 3)

(Los Angeles, CA—April 27, 2023) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *You Are Here: California Photography Now*, an exhibition featuring a range of concepts and approaches to visualizing California. On view in the exhibition are photographs that speak to specific aspects of the region, from entertainment and technology to marijuana dispensaries and flea markets. The 35 artworks in *You Are Here* expand the definition of photography and showcase the continued impact of experimental photography produced in California. Drawn from LACMA’s permanent collection, the contemporary lens-based artists featured in this exhibition include Laura Aguilar, Jennifer Bolande, Fallen Fruit, Christina Fernandez, Anthony Lepore, and others. Each photographer attempts to blur, redefine, or break down the boundaries of established tropes that have, for so long, defined California. This exhibition is curated by Eve Schillo, Associate Curator, the Wallis Annenberg Photography Department, LACMA.

LACMA is pleased to present an exhibition for the first time at the LA County Fair’s Millard Sheets Art Center, a gallery space dedicated to promoting the rich and diverse cultures that lie within L.A. County and Southern California. The L.A. County Fair runs May 5–29. For more information on the Fair, visit [lacountyfair.com](http://lacountyfair.com). Access to the exhibition is free with fair admission.

*You Are Here: California Photography Now* is accompanied by art-making activities every Friday and Saturday during the fair. On May 20 and 21, LACMA’s Maya Mobile, a mobile classroom featuring artifacts and guided instruction, will also be accessible to visitors. All LACMA activities at the fair are free with fair admission.

“Working in collaboration with the LA County Fair is a giant opportunity for LACMA to share art with communities throughout L.A. County on an unprecedented scale,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “We are thrilled to bring a selection of the museum’s collection and art activities to Fairplex, and look

forward to welcoming the one million fair visitors from all over Southern California to engage with the art, gain inspiration, and get creative.”

“Having an art exhibit isn’t novel for the Fair – we’ve featured exhibitions since the 1930s. But what we find today is that many Inland Valley residents do not get the opportunity to experience the larger art scene in Los Angeles. This is why having LACMA here is important. It allows us to continue making art accessible to our Fair audience and, I hope, encouraging them to venture to the museum itself,” said Walter Marquez, President & CEO of the Fair.

### **Exhibition Highlights:**

Anthony Lepore, *Sunrise (El amanecer)*, from the New Wilderness series, 2010

In his New Wilderness series, Anthony Lepore contemplates our 20th-century mediation of nature, one that is shaped by human invention and intervention. His images recast the wild, as seen in the low-budget theater that is the park visitor center. Such visitor-welcome areas exist physically but in no way experientially; within them, we are not physically exposed to and lost in nature. Yet, they are key to the contemporary idea of wilderness. In these unnatural foyers, such as the inspiration for *Sunrise*, which was taken in Death Valley National Park, visitors are instructed regarding what to expect in the open spaces they are about to enter via maps, brochures, and, of course, photography.

Klea McKenna, *Born in 1824 (4) (Nacido en 1824 [4])*, from the series Automatic Earth, 2016

Klea McKenna’s practice is centered on camera-less imagery, or photograms. She is deeply engaged with the natural world and an intent witness to the human-made changes once-pristine environs have experienced. For *Born in 1824 (4)*, she created, on location, a four-part photogram using the darkness of night as her darkroom. Working with thin, fragile photo-sensitive paper and handmade tools, each imprint is subsequently exposed to light, then collaged together, with the result a portrayal of the lifetime of a 192-year-old fir tree from Camp Meeker—and all it has witnessed. Pushing analogue photographic materials to this degree amplifies an emotional state rather than a straightforward recording, creating a tantric-like mediation that acknowledges something larger than ourselves.

### **Public Programs:**

#### **LACMA at Fair Kids**

**Fridays, May 12, 19, and 26, 9 am–1 pm**

#### **LACMA Art Activities**

**Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 11 am–4 pm**

Learn about upcoming programs for all ages at LACMA and join NexGenLA, LACMA's free membership for L.A. County youth 17 and under with one adult free.

## **LACMA Maya Mobile**

**Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, 11 am–4 pm**

Explore LACMA's Maya Mobile, an inspiring place where Mayan glyphs cover the walls. Handle and closely observe ancestral objects from West Mexico, Central America, and South America. Children and teens can participate in workshops to draw their own glyphs.

### **Credit**

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

### **About LACMA**

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 149,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

**Location:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [Lacma.org](http://Lacma.org)

**Image captions:** Jennifer Bolande, *Visible Distance #8*, 2017, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by the Ralph M. Parsons Fund, © Jennifer Bolande, digital image courtesy of the artist; Anthony Lepore, *Sunrise* from the series *New Wilderness*, 2010, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Photographic Arts Council, 2011, © Anthony Lepore, digital image courtesy of the artist; Rafael Cardenas, *Dos De Asada*, 2010, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by the Ralph M. Parsons Fund, © Rafael Cardenas, digital image courtesy of the artist; Klea McKenna, *Born in 1824 (4)* from the series *Automatic Earth*, 2016, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Ralph M. Parsons Fund, © Klea McKenna, digital image © Museum Associates/LACMA

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