

Maurizio Cattelan's L.A. Art Tour, With a Stop at Jim Carrey's Painting Studio

By Maurizio Cattelan and Ali Subotnick

Day 1

Our first stop (directly from LAX) was New York artist and gallerist (47 Canal) Margaret Lee's exhibition at Team (bungalow) in Venice. The second exhibition at the gallery's new West Coast outpost featured one chrome banana and one rose atop a chrome plinth set on softer-than-soft alpaca. It was raining, an extremely rare, newsworthy event, and it continued to pour for most of the week. During a brief respite from the weather, we popped in on Venice locals Liz Craft and Pentti Monkkonen at their home/studio compound. They showed us around their gallery space, Paradise Garage, and Nathalie Jones's installation in the window on the back alley. [Craft gave us a sneak peek of her new, life-size marionette-like ladies that she'll be showing at the hip, new gallery Jenny's in Silver Lake next year and her giant bronze teepee with eyes in the yard.](#) During the visit, Mexican artist and Venice local Gabriel Kuri stopped by with his kids for a play date and some pizza. Craft and Monkkonen are both sculptors who met while studying at UCLA (she was his TA and their teacher Charles Ray played matchmaker) and are key figures in the L.A. art scene as artists, gallerists, and co-founders of the coolest art fair ever, Paramount Ranch, which runs from January 31 through February 1 of next year and takes place on an old Western movie set in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Day 4

After a visit to the Hammer Museum to see shows of Robert Heinecken, Jim Hodges, Frances Upritchard, Yuri Ancarani, N. Dash, and Mario Garcia Torres, we made a drive-by visit to Marilyn Monroe's burial site across the street, Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park, where Farrah Fawcett, Don Rickles, Truman Capote, John Cassavetes, and Heather O'Rourke (of Poltergeist fame) were also laid to rest. Heading east, we stopped at Matthew Marks Gallery to check out a couple of flower drawings and two new sculptures by artist and UCLA professor Charles Ray (stainless-steel sculptures of a mime on a cot and a compacted car). We touched the art. Then we headed to the Koreatown studio of Kaari Upton, whose stellar show is currently on view at Lower East Side gallery Ramiken Crucible. Upton made us green tea and pumpkin pie and showed us her molds for her recent work. With her large-scale installations, esoteric videos, layered narratives, soft sculptures, and intuitive drawings, Upton could be the bastard child of Mike Kelley and Paul McCarthy, with a strong feminist bent. [As the rain became lighter, we headed to Silver Lake to see Max Hooper Schneider's new show at newish gallery Jenny's. Inside we found a popcorn trolley turned aquarium filled with live snails, a retrofitted '80s treadmill with snakeskin printed on leather, and intricate drawings of amoebalike shapes in bright colors, sandwiched in Plexiglas and suspended from the ceiling. The show is entitled "The Pound" and is a precocious, strange, and compelling work.](#)

