



Works by Nick Missel, one of three new roster artists being presented by Wexler Gallery. Photography courtesy Wexler Gallery

## Events

# What Not to Miss at the Inaugural Design Miami Los Angeles

Off to LA? Bookmark these gallery events and expert-led talks



By [Elizabeth Stamp](#)  
May 15, 2024

The Los Angeles art and design scene has exploded in recent years, with major galleries moving in and fairs like Frieze becoming permanent fixtures on celebs' and

# ADPRO

collectors' social calendars. Design Miami is now joining the West Coast craze with the inaugural installment of [Design Miami Los Angeles](#), taking place May 16–20. Curatorial director and Carpenters Workshop alum Ashlee Harrison has brought an eclectic mix of exhibitors together to the historic venue, a private Holmby Hills estate designed by legendary Los Angeles architect [Paul Revere Williams](#). The sprawling three-acre, 30,000-square-foot property, which was home to the late fashion designer [Max Azria](#), will host pieces from local and international purveyors.



Custom Trono by Nacho Carbonell, presented by Carpenters Workshop Galler

Ronald Smith



Among the [Los Angeles galleries](#) and creatives heading to Holmby Hills are Carpenters Workshop Gallery, James de Wulf, Marta, Southern Guild, Friedman Benda, Pizzaslime, Nick Thomm, and Twentieth Gallery. The Future Perfect—[no stranger to showcasing its wares in a fabulous LA residence](#)—will present 60 works by 21 artists specifically chosen to be in dialogue with Williams’s architecture, including introductions from Eric Roinestad, Floris Wubben, Omer Arbel, Ian Collings, and a collaboration by Bower Studios and Genesis Belanger.

Design Miami Los Angeles has lured some East Coast stalwarts over for the event too. Philadelphia and New York’s Wexler Gallery will exhibit in the city for the first time, unveiling three new artists on its roster: Nick Missel, Benjamin Gillespie, and Justin Wesley. New York’s Todd Merrill Studio is also making its LA debut with a multidisciplinary selection, including rare midcentury designs by the late Jack Rogers Hopkins.

Harrison had also curated the fair’s Podium exhibition, “Master Works of Collectible Design, 1938–Present.” Showcasing pieces from the year the Holmby Hills home was completed through present day, the show will feature work from over 20 galleries and designers, including Alberto Giacometti creations from Salon 94 Design, a Jean Prouvé lecture hall bench from Laffanour—Galerie Downtown, and more recent items, like Maarten Baas’s Children’s Clocks from Carpenters Workshop Gallery, a KAWS and Estudio Campana chair from Friedman Benda, Jomo Tariku’s Meedo Chair from Wexler Gallery, and works by Sami Hayek and Hechizoo Textiles.



# ADPRO



Justin Wesley, presented by Wexler Gallery.

Photography courtesy Wexler Gallery

# ADPRO

Outside the estate's three buildings, the fair's Design at Large section will take advantage of the beautiful setting, incorporating installations from Basic.Space, Southern Guild, B G Robinson, Mindy Solomon Gallery, and 1882 Ltd. Design Miami Los Angeles also worked with USM to create a listening room with speaker mastermind Devon Turnbull.

The property's theater will host the fair's Design Talks series, which was produced in partnership with *AD*. The programming includes discussions on the design legacy of Paul Revere Williams, the collectible design market, vehicle collecting, design authentication, and the connection between interiors and the inner self. The panels will feature industry insiders such as AD100 designer Bridgette Romanek, AD100 Hall of Fame architect [Lee F. Mindel](#), artist Simon Haas, and writer Antwaun Sargent. And *AD*'s own Mayer Rus will be having a conversation with Emmy Award-winning screenwriter, producer, and director [Ryan Murphy](#) on the cinematic worlds of Murphy's film and television productions, designing homes with a singular point of view, and his wide-ranging adventures in collecting art and design.



Inside the Brown-Sidney House by Richard Neutra, now owned by Ryan Murphy, who will be headlining the Design Talks lineup.

Stephen Kent Johnson

See below for the official Design Talks program, developed by Design Miami Los Angeles and *AD*. To attend, [inquire here](#).



## Thursday, May 16

### **Art Is Not a Thing, It Is a Way**

*2 p.m.–3 p.m.*

The quote “Art is not a thing; it is a way” by American writer Elbert Hubbard suggests that art transcends physical objects, representing a process and a lifestyle. It portrays art as a holistic way of interacting with the world, emphasizing creativity and personal expression. This panel will discuss the ways in which despite racial, gendered, sexual, and class prejudices, artistic creation persists. Here, art becomes a way or a vehicle towards confronting, processing, and healing from injustices.

Panelists include curator and writer **Essence Harden**, visual activist and artist **Zanele Muholi**, SCAD curator **Ben Tollefson**, and **Key Jo Lee**, chief of curatorial affairs and public programs at the Museum of the African Diaspora.

ADVERTISEMENT

### **Authenticity: Image & Identity**

*3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.*

Exposing ourselves to authenticity is one of the most valuable opportunities that we can experience. Our actions can often be guided by imagery or intuition. But what are we really looking at, and what do we really want? Explore the ideas and processes that help to determine and identify authenticity. The discussion will consider the appearance and material identity of historic design objects, the innovative spirit of contemporary design, and how authentic and effective holistic environments may be identified.

Panelists include design curator and advisor **Simon Andrews** and architect and historian **Lee Mindel**, FAIA.

## Friday, May 17

### **The Man Who Drew Upside Down: The Architectural Legacy of Paul R. Williams**

*2 p.m.–3 p.m.*

In a prolific career spanning almost six decades, Williams designed some 3,000



structures and became one of the most distinguished architects of his time. Despite this precedent-setting career, Williams's efforts at defining Los Angeles's built environment have been largely unheralded. This discussion will explore the architect's many achievements and contributions to American architecture.

Panelists include **LeRonn P. Brooks, PhD**, curator of modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute, and **Maristella Casciato**, senior curator and head of architectural collections at the Getty Research Institute.

### **Art of Noise**

*3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.*

Explore the fusion of sound, design, and technology, presenting valuable insights into creating immersive sound environments while celebrating music culture and the intersection of sound with art, design, and lifestyle.

Panelists include **Joseph Becker**, associate curator of architecture and design at SFMoMA; **Wesley Katzir**, founder of Common Wave Hi-Fi; **Kevin Carney**, owner of Mohawk General Store; and **Tana Yonas**, editorial and programming contributor at In Sheep's Clothing HiFi.

## **Saturday, May 18**

### **Confluence of Culture: The New Creative World-Maker**

*12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m.*

Working at the intersection of design, art, fashion, and commerce, the invited speakers will share in their unique multidisciplinary approaches to world-building and storytelling. From wearable to functional design, these artists create ever-expanding multiverses that revolutionize the ways in which we perceive and interact with art.

Panelists include Jamie Bush & Co. Design principal **Jamie Bush**, designer, curator, and creative director **Darren Romanelli**, designer and artist **Rogan Gregory**, and designer **Rich Mnisi**.

### **Collecting Design: Contemporary Perspectives**

*2 p.m.–3 p.m.*



The discussion will navigate the defining elements of collectible design, spotlight influential artists and galleries shaping this realm, and distinguish between functional and decorative objects. Insights on educating clients about the importance and investment potential of collectible pieces will also be highlighted, underlining the evolving relationship between art, design, and collection.

Panelists include Design Miami Los Angeles curatorial director **Ashlee Harrison**, interior designer and consultant **Alison Palevsky**, department head and curator for decorative arts and design at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art **Wendy Kaplan**, Haas Brothers cofounder **Simon Haas**, and artist and designer **Johanna Grawunder**.

## Sunday, May 19

### The Smart Set

*4 p.m.–5 p.m.*

Hollywood powerhouse Ryan Murphy talks to *AD*'s West Coast editor Mayer Rus about conjuring provocative cinematic worlds for his film and television productions, designing homes with a singular point of view, and his wide-ranging adventures in collecting art and design.

Panelists include Emmy Award–winning screenwriter, producer, and director **Ryan Murphy** and *AD* West Coast editor **Mayer Rus**.