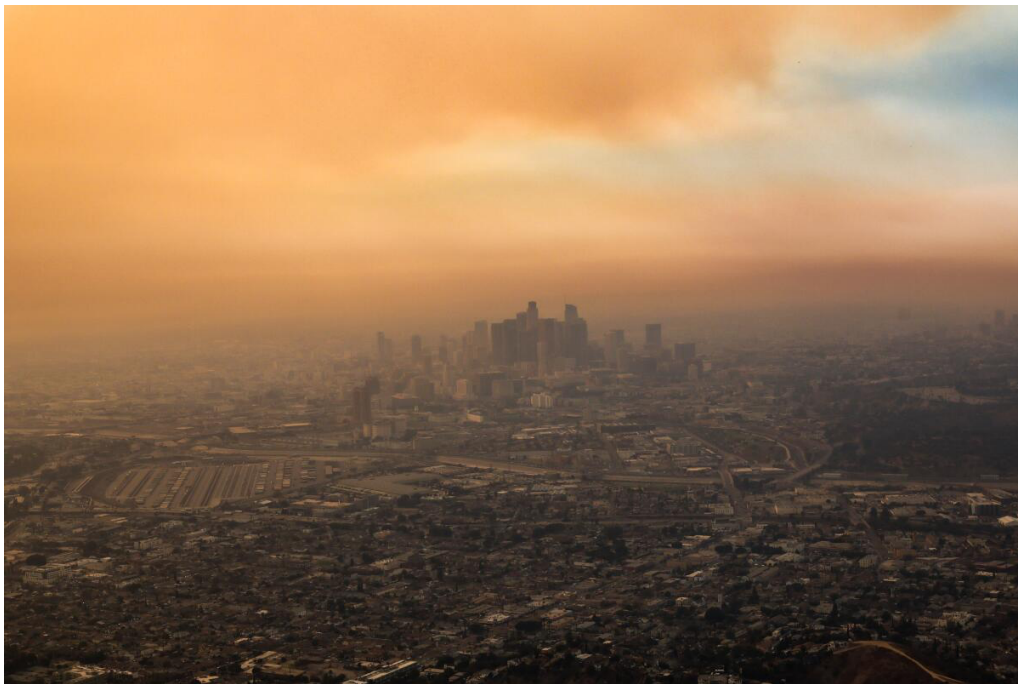


Los Angeles Times

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

The unimaginable losses of the L.A. firestorms: L.A. arts and culture this week



The skies over Los Angeles on Thursday. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

By Jessica Gelt and Ashley Lee

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If you live in the Los Angeles area, we may have something in common. You, like me, have stepped out of your house and stared at the smoky, ash-filled sky, your mind reeling at the enormity of what is taking place in your beloved metropolis. The scale of the loss is staggering, and beyond all accounting. You know friends who have lost everything but the clothes on their backs. And they have likely asked *you* how *you're* doing — even in the midst of their trauma and grief.

Throughout these horrific days — when the sun is a glaring red eye in the sky, and one evacuation alert after another floods my phone — the kindness of others has kept me afloat. The way neighbors have checked in on me, and family has called to see what they can do to help. Information has been shared, and sorrow filtered through many group text chains and phone calls.

“Are you OK?”

“What can I do?”

“My home is open if you need somewhere to stay.”

“Hi, I’m thinking of you. Are you and your family safe?”

Words, filled with love and concern, often translated to action when aid is selflessly given.

As the fires continue to rage, I have been glued to my computer, trying to take down as many stories as I can in order to document what we are collectively living through. Stories about museums being saved and cultural treasures in danger. And, just recently, the harrowing tale of one couple in Altadena who had just bought a new home, only to lose it, as well as the house they were about to put on the market, in a single night. They, too, stopped to wish me and my family well.

I’m arts and culture writer **Jessica Gelt**, struggling to put into words what we have lost — and knowing it will never be enough. My colleague **Ashley Lee** and I are here to give you whatever arts news we can find. Please take good care.

Best bets: On our radar this week



Margaret Morgan’s “Sea of Glass” is ink and colored pencil on Canson Infinity Arches Aquarelle Rag. (Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles)

Margaret Morgan: Love Must Be Reinvented'

In the 1965 **Jean- Luc Godard** crime drama “**Pierrot le Fou,**” the unhappily married protagonist recites a few lines from **Arthur Rimbaud’s** extended poem “A Season in Hell” — particularly, the mention in which, when it comes to women, “love has to be reinvented” because it’s often sacrificed to adhere to bourgeois society’s hetero norms of marriage and family.

Margaret Morgan is all for love’s reinvention but disagrees with the poet when it comes to motherhood and caregiving. Luis De Jesus Los Angeles presents a solo exhibition of the L.A.-based artist’s works inspired by the scene in the film: three series of framed works on paper and text installations developed through her praxis of walks in **Griffith Park** and her fascination with pareidolia, or the ability to perceive patterns and meaning out of random objects. The exhibition, which opened this past weekend, is on view Tuesdays through Saturdays until Feb. 22. Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, 1110 Mateo St, Arts District.

— Ashley Lee