

What's New in L.A.

Restaurants, hotels, shops and more to check out during the Oscars and Frieze art fair. BY BOOTH MOORE



Onda in Santa Monica is a mash-up between Squirrel chef Jessica Koslow and Contramar chef Gabriela Cámara.

Whether you are traveling to Los Angeles for the Tom Ford runway show, Oscars weekend, the Frieze art fair or just because, there is a lot of newness to see and experience. Here, broken up by neighborhood, are some suggestions for how to spend your time.

Santa Monica

The new Kelly Wearstler-designed **Proper Hotel** (700 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica) is a stylish must-see. The L.A. interior designer transformed a Twenties Spanish Colonial Revival office building into the 271-room hotel, which has a uniquely minimalist, earthy and textured look that makes one want to stay awhile, perhaps to enjoy a mezcals tasting at the rooftop bar? There are beach cruisers available on-site for touring the neighborhood.

The hotel's restaurant is the buzzy **Onda**, which opened in October. It's a collaboration between Jessica Koslow, chef of Eastside ricotta toast hot spot Squirrel, and Mexico City chef Gabriela Cámara of Contramar. On the menu? "Mexican based on what's in season with Squirrel touches," said Koslow, who has a way with fermentation, which she's incorporated into the guacamole with fermented jalapeños. The Fish Hiding in Kelp features kelp harvested from Santa Barbara and sardines from Malibu, done fritto misto style in an ode to Camera's Italian roots, but the Koji-marinated Satsuma Sweet Potato with salsa mocha, house-made crema and heirloom corn tortillas is the one that's hard to get out of one's head. On the cocktail (or maybe dessert?) menu, the Mole + Butter, served in a ceramic puffer fish sourced from the now-shuttered tiki haunt Trader Vic's, with 54-ingredient mole, Barbados rum, cacao and morenita sherry, is a tasty sip. Reservations recommended, but there's also a bar that's seated first-come, first-serve. Onda will start serving breakfast next week, including a crispy rice salad with adobo.

Closer to the water, with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean, **Oceana** (849 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica) is fresh off an eight-month renovation by interior designer Anna Busta.

The 70-suite seaside retreat feels like a fully staffed beach house, with a private restaurant serving fare sourced from the local farmer's market, Loro Piana bedding, Frette linens and Bottega Veneta amenities. (It's great for a weekend, but would also be a good spot for a brand looking to take over a whole hotel). Each room has its own entry nook swing, and bookcases full of reading material to take to the beach.

West Hollywood/Hollywood

Since opening late last year, Ian Schrager's **The West Hollywood Edition** (9040 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood) has been a magnet for bold-facers including Demi Moore, Janelle Monáe, RuPaul, Jeremy Scott, Rick Owens and more. Seeing Chaka Khan perform in



The "Betye Saar: Call and Response" installation at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

the subterranean club inspired designer Scott Studenberg to plan his fall 2020 Baja East fashion show in the venue. Don't miss Sterling Ruby's "The Scale" mobile in the lobby, and **The Ardor** restaurant, where chef John Fraser serves vegetable-forward cuisine, including yummy carrot bolognese. The Roof, with views of the city, is a scene the likes of which L.A. hasn't seen since Schrager's Sky Bar opened at the Mondrian. In other words, there will be a line. Take refuge in the spa, where there's a CBD facial with California-based Mowellens products.

For an art fix, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's **"Betye Saar: Call and Response"** (until April 5 at 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles) is a wonderful companion to last year's Museum of Modern Art show, focusing on the last 25 years of work by the 93-year-old L.A. artist, who was honored at last year's Gucci-sponsored LACMA Art + Film gala. The exhibition is small but

mighty, the first to feature Saar's charming sketchbooks alongside her intimate yet powerful mixed-media assemblage works, some of which incorporate clothing, touching on themes of racism, mysticism and her own personal history.

Fashion hubs Barneys New York in Beverly Hills and Opening Ceremony on La Cienega may be on their way out, but **The Webster** (8500 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles) is just moving in with its seventh location. Located at the Beverly Center, with a street-level entrance facing San Vicente

Boulevard, the 11,000-square-foot pink concrete building was designed by acclaimed British architect Sir David Adjaye, whose projects include the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and homes for Juergen Teller, Ewan McGregor and the late Alexander McQueen. This marks Adjaye's first project in California and he will appear at a Frieze-related event in the store on Feb. 12. Inside is an edgy mix of designers for men and women, including Amiri, Loewe, Rhude, Bottega Veneta, Khaite and Co.

For a workout, head to **Aarmy** (8599 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood), the fitness pop-up from brand guru Trey Laird and celeb-loved trainers Angela Davis and Akin Akman, which drew no less than Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Usher and Iman on opening weekend. The 8,000-square-foot space, open until at least the end of the year while a permanent location is found, has a minimalist look designed by Alvarez & Vincent Architects, the design pioneers behind Nike's L.A. special events space Room 72. In addition to two training rooms, one for boot camp and another 55-bike cycling room, it features an outdoor terrace and retail space selling such limited-edition merchandise as Fear of God x Aarmy hoodies and T-shirts.

Sycamore District/La Brea/Hollywood

Rick Owens may have been onto something in 2015 when he opened his L.A. boutique in what was then a retail wasteland on La Brea Avenue just south of Santa Monica Boulevard. Now there are several new spots in the area that you can tackle in one trip. Start just south of Melrose at the blush pink **Sonia Boyajian Jewelry** (357 North La Brea, Los Angeles) boutique designed by Studio Shamshiri and inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's home and studio in Abiquiu, New Mexico, with soft, curving lines; low, built-in couches and a kiva-like fireplace. L.A. designer Boyajian is known for her artful jewelry, including ▶

