FRIEZE LOS ANGELES

PRESS RELEASE

Frieze Los Angeles to showcase ambitious artistic program that takes inspiration from the fair’s new location of Santa Monica Airport and the westside of Los Angeles

- **Art Production Fund** debuts their Los Angeles expansion with ‘Now Playing’ a selection of performances and outdoor artworks installed at Frieze Los Angeles’ new site at Santa Monica Airport
- **Jay Ezra Nayssan and Del Vaz Projects** to curate ‘Against the Edge’ in a series of historically significant cultural sites across Los Angeles’ westside

Los Angeles, CA (February 2, 2023) – Frieze Los Angeles returns with an ambitious lineup of artistic programming that takes inspiration from the fair’s new location of Santa Monica Airport and extends the program’s engagement with the city’s cultural legacies. This year Frieze Projects features two site-specific strands of programming: a collaboration with **Art Production Fund**, onsite at the fair, and an expanded series of projects curated by **Jay Ezra Nayssan** and **Del Vaz Projects** installed in culturally significant sites across the westside of Los Angeles. Additionally, five nonprofit organizations from across Los Angeles are given a platform at the fair to showcase each organization’s mission linking art and social impact. Taking place from February 16-19, 2023, Frieze Los Angeles is supported by global lead partner Deutsche Bank, continuing a shared commitment to artistic excellence.

“We are thrilled to present a diverse and innovative lineup of artistic programming at Frieze Los Angeles 2023,’ said **Christine Messineo**, (Director of Americas, Frieze). “‘Now Playing’ and “Against the Edge” both demonstrate our connection to the city. Embedded in both strands of programming is an understanding of Los Angeles’ historical significance, the creative founders and foundation, the unique architecture, and the artistic community.”

‘**Now Playing**’

Art Production Fund’s ‘Now Playing’ brings together a series of artworks that shine a light on the often-overlooked elements of everyday life in Los Angeles; the vehicles, street food, sports, aircraft, construction sites and deeper histories that blend into the background. The artists featured in ‘Now Playing’ provide a lens through which we can see these quotidian details anew; ever present but unseen, that make Los Angeles a city both complex and beloved. ‘Now Playing’ receives support from Art of Recovery, an initiative of the City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs. Participating artists in ‘Now Playing’ include Autumn Breon, Chris Burden, Jose Dávila, Basil Kincaid, Divya Mehra, Ruben Ochoa, Alake Shilling and Jennifer West.

Burden’s awe-inspiring forty-foot skyscraper mimics the skyline of downtown’s architecture; Ruben Ochoa pays tribute to the street vendor community, connecting his personal narrative to his art making. Performances reveal not only the city’s daily life, such as Alake Shilling’s **Buggy Ball**, an artist-designed soccer ball activated by LAFC led scrimmages, but also its histories, as in Autumn Breon’s **Leisure Lives**, which honors Bay Street Beach, a seaside haven for Black Californians’ recreation in the early to mid-twentieth century.

- **Autumn Breon, Leisure Lives** (2023)
- **Chris Burden, 40 Foot Stepped Skyscraper** (2011)
Frieze Los Angeles to showcase ambitious artistic program at the fair’s new location, Santa Monica Airport and across the westside of Los Angeles

‘Against the Edge’
Curated by Jay Ezra Nayssan and Del Vaz Projects, Frieze Projects: ‘Against the Edge’ takes place across a constellation of culturally significant sites along the coastal Westside which have been and remain integral to the history of modern and contemporary art in Los Angeles. Each of these provides a setting for new and imagined relationships between site and artist, history, and fiction. At each location, an artist’s work has been placed in conversation with its setting, unearthing narratives of liberation and creativity as well as exile and occlusion.

- **At the Thomas Mann House** (1941) in Pacific Palisades, visitors will find the work of Moroccan-born, French artist Nicola L. (1932–2018)
- **Villa Aurora** (1928), the former home of writer Lion Feuchtwanger and meeting point for German emigres such as Bertolt Brecht, Alma Mahler and Arnold Schoenberg, will play host to the work of LA-based artist Kelly Akashi (b. 1983)
- **Beyond Baroque**, a leading literary arts organization whose building was originally Venice City Hall, will show the work of Tony Cokes (b.1956)
- **Monday Evening Concerts’** artistic director Jonathan Hepfer and a cast of notable figures from the worlds of visual art and music will perform a musical tribute at the Santa Monica Pier Merry Go-Round Building to the legendary Los Angeles curator Walter Hopps (1932-2005) whose first major exhibition took place on the same site in 1955
- **Nayssan’s own space Del Vaz Projects**, which operates out of his house (Shirley Temple’s childhood home), will show a selection of works from late Los Angeles artist Julie Becker’s (1972-2016) much-acclaimed unfinished work Whole

NON-PROFITS
Frieze Los Angeles hosts five Los Angeles based non-profits, honoring each organization’s work to make Los Angeles a more equitable community.

- **GYOPO** is a collective of diasporic Korean cultural producers and arts professionals generating and sharing progressive, critical, intersectional, and intergenerational discourses, community alliances, and free educational programs in Los Angeles and beyond. gypo.us
- **People’s Pottery Project**’s mission is to empower formerly incarcerated women, trans and non-binary individuals through the power of artmaking, grassroots advocacy, and meaningful employment through its non-profit ceramics business. peoplespotteryproject.com
- **AMBOS** seeks to express and document border emotion through art made on opposite sides, by providing a platform for bi-national artists along the border. Using craft and art as a vehicle for community self-care, this project is aimed at humanizing the act of border crossing. ambosproject.com
- **90220 Gallery** strives to provide an accessible platform for emerging and underrepresented artists by hosting think tanks, podcasts and promoting collaboration with like-minded trailblazers, their mission is to be the premier art gallery and community safe haven for creatives of color to freely voice their unique expressions to Los Angeles and beyond
Carolyn Glasoe Bailey Foundation is committed to supporting and advocating the arts and sciences. Current initiatives include awards for visual artists, as well as The Ojai Institute, an artist-residency program. Currently based in Ojai, California, the organization was founded in 2015 by artists, family, and friends to celebrate the legacy of esteemed art patron and private art dealer Carolyn Glasoe Bailey.

In addition, Reparations Club, a Los Angeles-based independently Black-owned and operated bookstore will host a pop-up shop.

FURTHER INFORMATION
An annual highlight of the fair, Frieze Projects is an anchor program of Frieze Los Angeles and brings together a compelling program of artists and initiatives.

To keep up to date on all the latest news from Frieze, sign up to our newsletter at frieze.com, and follow @friezeofficial on Instagram, Twitter and Frieze Official on Facebook.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Frieze Los Angeles Opening Hours
Thursday Preview, February 16 (invitation only): 10am – 7pm
Friday Preview, February 17: 11am – 8pm
Saturday, February 18: 11am – 7pm
Sunday, February 19: 11am – 6pm

‘Now Playing’ – Project Descriptions:

Autumn Breon (lives and works, Los Angeles)
Leisure Lives (2023)
Swag Surf in the Water, performance (2023)
With support from For Freedoms

Leisure Lives, created by multidisciplinary artist Autumn Breon, is a public installation that honors Santa Monica’s Bay Street Beach and the Black spatial imaginary. Located a few miles from Frieze, Bay Street Beach was a seaside haven for Black Californians’ recreation in the early to mid-twentieth century. A colorful and illuminating gateway to leisure, Leisure Lives monumentalizes the legacy of the Black pioneers that fiercely protected public space dedicated to the rest and joy of their community. Activated by the artist’s accompanying performance Swag Surf in the Water, Breon imagines this public space as an invitation to claim and reclaim space for relaxation.

Performance Schedule: Thursday, February 16 at 2:30PM. A procession from the West site (Barker Hangar) to the East site with Autumn Breon and the Black Fist Brass Band.

Chris Burden (b.1946 – d. 2015, lived and worked in California)
40 Foot Stepped Skyscraper (2011)
Gagosian Gallery

Burden’s 40 ½ foot high Ziggurat-like tower is made of Erector Set girders reproduced in stainless steel. In 1913 an American inventor, A.C. Gilbert produced a metal toy construction system called Erector, which was similar in spirit to the European Meccano system but much simpler in design.
The sculpture was built using approximately 250,000 stainless-steel replicas of Erector-like pieces, one of the most ambitious works in Burden's career.

**Jose Dávila** (b. 1974, lives and works in Guadalajara, Mexico)
*Acapulco chair stack* (2023)
Sean Kelly Gallery

The Acapulco chair represents a hybrid between artisanal techniques, the democratizing ethos of the workshop, and a contextual vision of what modernity means in a country like Mexico. In Dávila's work, the Acapulco chair frames are stacked one on top of another, forming a vertical composition of interweaving metal that cradles carefully positioned stones. The weight of these stones functions as a counterweight to the more fragile armature, assuring its stability and permanence.

**Basil Kincaid** (b. 1986, lives and works in Ghana)
*Dancing the Wind Walk*, 2023
With thanks to pilot Bob Young

Basil Kincaid’s quilt wrapped plane, *Dancing the Wind Walk* represents the pursuit of freedom within systems of subjugation. The artist’s mastery in abstraction, draping fabric over, down, and through the sculptures, creates sites rich with ancestral presence. The stories nested within the quilt surrounding *Dancing the Wind Walk* are multi-faceted, stemming from collective memory and the materials’ travel from West Africa to the West Coast of the United States. Kincaid’s decision to wrap a Santa Monica local’s 29L plane addresses the historical significance of aviation within the context of the airport where the fair is being held.

**Divya Mehra** (b. 1981, lives and works in Manitoba, Canada)
*A Practical Guide* (2023)
Night Gallery

Divya Mehra is known for her disarming multimedia works addressing diasporic experiences, historical narratives, and the legacy of colonialism in the West. The monumental inflatable reimagines the plastic bags reading ‘THANK YOU’ often used by businesses, including take-out and convenience stores. A Hindi term originally misused by the British empire against Indians, the word ‘LOOT’ replaces the neighborly message of gratitude and invites you to take what you’re owed.

**Ruben Ochoa** (b. 1974, lives and works in Los Angeles)
With support from Dobel
*Revolution Carts and Class: C Mobile Gallery* (2023)

Ochoa will exhibit his mobile gallery, CLASS: C, to the public for the first time in over 15 years. Presented alongside CLASS: C are street vendor carts (by Revolution Carts) with artist-designed graphics, selling tamales and cut fruit during Frieze LA. His family’s business selling tortillas inspired his advocacy for invisible labor. Ochoa gives a platform to the LA street vendor community, championing the rights of vendors as entrepreneurs operating small businesses central to the communal culture of these communities in LA.

**Alake Shilling** (b. 1993, lives and works Los Angeles)
*Buggy Ball* (2019)

Schilling’s custom-designed ‘Buggy Bear’ balls will be featured at the Airport Soccer Field in a special collaboration with Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), who will be leading soccer clinics for adults and children throughout the duration of the fair.
Activation Schedule: Thursday, February 16th 3PM – 5PM / Saturday, February 18th 1PM – 3PM / Sunday, February 19th 1PM – 3PM

Jennifer West (b.1966, lives and works in Los Angeles)
Hologram Phantom Limbs (2023)

Drawing from Los Angeles historian Norman Klein’s idea of phantom limbs and the social imaginary, West’s installation is deeply connected to the city’s history of urban development. The outdoor installation, consisting of salvaged rocks and animations, features imagery ranging from building demolition to mountain lions, including P22. The artist’s application of inks, Los Angeles tap water, and urine to the film strips brings forth lo-fi effects that gesture towards a bodily extension of the city, a phantom limb of our cultural memory.

‘Against the Edge’ – Project Descriptions:

Nicola L. Nous Voulons Entendre at Thomas Mann House
Thomas Mann moved to Los Angeles via Princeton in 1941, having fled Nazi Germany. Before commissioning his new home in Santa Monica, Mann toured California modernist buildings in 1938 with Richard Neutra, ultimately selecting the Berlin-born, German-Jewish architect Julius Ralph Davidson to design his family’s home. Throughout the war, Mann would record his anti-Nazi messages from the home’s study, which were broadcast by the BBC to people in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, and the occupied Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

Nicola L., took to the streets with students and factory workers in the May 68 demonstrations, making a series of Penetrable protest banners. These banners were punctuated with entries for five to ten heads, with slogans such as WE WANT TO TOUCH, WE WANT TO SEE, WE WANT TO FEEL, WE WANT TO LOVE, and WE WANT TO BE LOVED stenciled across them. On view at the Thomas Mann House is an example of one of these banners with nine head-Penetrables and the phrase NOUS VOULONS ENTENDRE, or, WE WANT TO HEAR, this work resounds with Mann’s broadcasts, each of which began with the words “Germans, Listen!”

Kelly Akashi Heirloom at Villa Aurora
The ‘demonstration house’ for the planned Miramar Estates, the Spanish-style Villa Aurora was completed in 1928, with luxury features like electric garage doors and a pipe organ to accompany movie screenings. Following the Wall Street Crash, it failed to sell and fell vacant, but in 1943, it was acquired by Lion Feuchtwanger, author of The Oppermans (1933) and his wife, Marta. With Salka and Berthold Viertel’s nearby home, the Villa became a meeting point for émigrés like Bertolt Brecht, Alma Mahler and Arnold Schoenberg. After Lion Feuchtwanger’s death in 1995, it became a residency for artists.

Showing Kelly Akashi’s work at Villa Aurora, opens a dialogue between the Feuchtwanglers history and Akashi’s personal history. Just a few months after the Feuchtwanglers arrived from Germany, Executive Order 9066 was issued, forcing Japanese Americans into internment camps, many of whom were from Santa Monica and Venice. Akashi’s own father and grandparents had to leave Boyle Heights to be interned at Poston Internment Camp in Arizona.

Tony Cokes So to speak at Beyond Baroque
Built in 1906, the former Venice City Hall has since 1980 been home to Beyond Baroque, which has evolved into a leading literary arts organization, providing workshops, readings, film screenings, a publishing imprint and a specialist bookstore boasting 40,000 volumes, including rare and small press publications.
Presenting Tony Cokes’ work at Beyond Baroque builds upon the legacy of Beyond Baroque as a beacon for beat poetry and punk. The musicality and rhythm of Cokes’ work, and its connection to vernacular forms of music and spoken word will resonate throughout Beyond Baroque.

**Monday Evening Concerts Action 3 at the Merry-Go-Round at the Santa Monica Pier**

Los Angeles curator Walter Hopps organized his first major group exhibition ‘Action’ (1955) in the Santa Monica Pier’s Merry-Go-Round building. Hopps wrapped the carousel in fabric and suspended paintings by a number of Californian abstract painters including Sonia Gechtoff, Craig Kauffman, Jay DeFeo and Richard Diebenkorn. Unusually Hopps also included a musical component to the exhibition, playing recorded jazz music and the carousel’s soundtrack as well as his own renditions of some John Cage works.

As part of ‘Against the Edge’ Jonathan Hepfer, Artistic Director of Monday Evening Concerts, devised a program of music to play in homage to Hopps’s exhibition. On Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 PM, Hepfer and a cast of notable figures from the worlds of visual art and music will perform John Cage’s *Speech*, composed the same year as the Hopps exhibition took place. (Monday Evening Concerts, or MEC, was founded in 1939 by Peter Yates, music critic for *Arts & Architecture* magazine.)

**Julie Becker (W)hole at Del Vaz Projects**

Jay Ezra Nayssan’s own project space Del Vaz Projects operates out of his house, which was once Shirley Temple’s childhood home. Since 2021, Del Vaz Projects has operated as an arts non-profit and curatorial platform, providing opportunities to artists and the public through a variety of activities that include exhibition programming; artist-stays; publications and public events and workshops. Del Vaz Projects’ programming has always concerned itself with the domestic and built environment.

The exhibition *(W)hole* at Del Vaz Projects includes parts of late-Los Angeles artist Julie Becker’s (1972-2016) much-acclaimed unfinished work *Whole* and marks the first substantial presentation of Becker’s work in Los Angeles in over a decade following a touring survey at ICA London and MoMA PS1. Accompanying the exhibition will be a talk between writers Chris Kraus and Ralph Coon at Del Vaz Projects on Tuesday, February 14th at 10 AM.

**ABOUT**

**Frieze** is the world’s leading platform for modern and contemporary art for scholars, connoisseurs, collectors, and the general public alike. Frieze comprises three magazines – *frieze, Frieze Masters Magazine* and *Frieze Week* – and five international art fairs – Frieze London, Frieze Masters, Frieze New York, Frieze Los Angeles and Frieze Seoul. In October 2021, Frieze launched No.9 Cork Street, a hub for visiting international galleries in the heart of Mayfair, London. Frieze is part of the IMG network.

**IMG** is a global leader in sports, fashion, events and media. The company manages some of the world’s greatest athletes and fashion icons; owns and operates hundreds of live events annually; and is a leading independent producer and distributor of sports and entertainment media. IMG also specializes in licensing, sports training and league development. IMG is a subsidiary of Endeavor, a global sports and entertainment company.

**ART PRODUCTION FUND** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to commissioning and producing ambitious public art projects, reaching new audiences and expanding awareness through contemporary art. Past projects include: Elmgreen & Dragset, “Prada Marfa,” Valentine, TX, Ugo Rondinone, “Seven Magic Mountains,” Las Vegas, Jeff Koons, “Seated Ballerina,” Rockefeller Center,
NYC, Zoe Buckman, “CHAMP,” LA; Raul de Nieves “When I Look In To Your Eyes I See the Sun,” Miami; Lucy Sparrow “Lucy’s Delicatessen on 6th,” Rockefeller Center, NYC; Nancy Baker Cahill “Liberty Bell”, multiple cities, 2020; Sanford Biggers “Oracle”, Rockefeller Center, 2021; Derrick Adams “Funtime Unicorns”, Rockefeller Center, 2022. APF was founded by Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Remen in 2000. Executive Director: Casey Fremont / Director of Operations: Kathleen Lynch. For more information, please visit artproductionfund.org / @artproductionfund

**Del Vaz Projects** was established in 2014 by Jay Ezra Nayssan in the spare bedroom of his home and has since become internationally regarded as one of the most important and integral alternative spaces in Los Angeles. Its exhibition program, centered around the domestic setting, has served as a catalyst for both recognized and underrecognized artists by creating a more personal and meaningful discourse around artists’ practices. Previous projects include exhibitions, publications and screenings of works by artists such as Heidi Bucher, Olivia Erlanger, Max Hooper Schneider, Tetsumi Kudo, Nicola L., Jessi Reaves, Lucas Samaras, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, and Paul Thek. Since 2021, Del Vaz Projects has been operating as a non-profit arts organization and curatorial platform, providing opportunities to artists and the public through a variety of activities that include but are not limited to: exhibition programming; artist-stays; publications and public events and workshops.

**Deutsche** Bank is the Global Lead Partner for Frieze Art Fairs, with 2023 marking the 20th year of the partnership. As part of its Art & Culture commitment, Deutsche Bank has supported and collected the work of cutting-edge, international artists for more than 40 years. A global leader in corporate art programs, the bank also runs an **Artist of the Year** program, as well as its own cultural center in Berlin, the PalaisPopulaire. All initiatives are based on the strong belief that engagement with art has a positive impact, not only on clients and staff but also on the communities in which the bank operates. Thus further collaborations such as the Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award in the United States, The Art of Conversation in Italy, the Frieze x Deutsche Bank Emerging Curators Fellowship in the United Kingdom, and the digital platform Art:LIVE, create access to contemporary art for people all around the world.