

ART MATTERS

with Edward Goldman

Art Adventures Around LA

October 21, 2021



Greetings to all of you, my friends. Let me start with patting myself on the shoulder. This week Forbes Magazine published Tom Teicholz's review of the exhibition, [Art and Hope at the End of the Tunnel](#), which I curated at USC Fisher Museum of Art. Here are my favorite quotes from this very friendly article:

"Goldman...brought his powers as a critic, a reporter, and an irresistible schmoozer to the task."

"ART AND HOPE at the end of the tunnel" is, following the dearth of art exhibitions in the last 18 months, is not merely an embarrassment of the richness of LA's art scene, but also a richly rewarding experience. To my mind, Goldman's exhibition is a more satisfying survey of art "Made in LA" than the Hammer Museum's most recent biennial. Goldman's eye, and his friendships with the artists resonate throughout this exhibition, demonstrating, as his newsletter proclaims, that "Art Matters."

Here is a link to the article on [Forbes.com](#)



Installation views of *Environmental Reflections*
Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University
Photos by Edward Goldman

After almost two years of closure, Pepperdine University's Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art invites us to see its new exhibition, *Environmental Reflections Contemporary Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*. There are several dozen works by a diverse group of artists trying "to capture the beauty in the forces of nature, each interpretation unique and distinctly different from the other." I was particularly impressed by the theatrical installation design for this exhibition, which gives the impression of nature performing at its best, "from the depths of the oceans to the farthest reaches of space... there is beauty, destruction, depth and vast expanses yet to be discovered."

The [exhibition](#) runs through December 5th.



Installation views of *June Edmonds: Full Spectrum*
Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University
Photos by Edward Goldman

Across the city at Loyola Marymount University, the Laband Art Gallery presents a solo exhibition titled, *June Edmonds: Full Spectrum*. The mini-retrospective of this Los Angeles-based artist follows her career from the 1980s to 2021 focusing on her "lifelong commitment to portraying Black positivity." I was not familiar with Edmonds' earlier figurative paintings of domestic scenes and found them particularly holding my attention with their focus on her personal experience as a Black woman.



Installation view of *June Edmonds: Full Spectrum*
Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University
Photo by Edward Goldman



L: Debbie Korbel. *Wings of Thunder*.
R: Melanie Newcombe. *Athena*, 2019
Ernie Wolfe Gallery
Photos by Edward Goldman

OK my friends, are you ready for another adventure? Ernie Wolfe Gallery invites us to see a group exhibition by female artists, many of them delivering powerful punches. Take a look at the life-sized sculpture by Debbie Korbel of a samurai wielding a sword; so much violence, so much theater.

I especially liked the juxtaposition of the life-sized, metal sculpture of the female nude by Melanie Newcombe next to the tribal African wood ladder; an excellent marriage of old and new.



Cabinet Card images at LACMA
Acting Out: Cabinet Cards and the Making of Modern Photography
Photos by Edward Goldman

Going to LACMA over the weekend, I discovered a small exhibition full of surprises, *Acting Out: Cabinet Cards and the Making of Modern Photography, 1870-1900*. Nearly 200 samples of these so-called cabinet cards give us an experience of early photographic portraiture from the late 19th century in America.



Cabinet Card images at LACMA

Acting Out: Cabinet Cards and the Making of Modern Photography
Photos by Edward Goldman

"While little is known about the cabinet card makers or the subjects themselves, the photographs provide a lively glimpse into the past, showing how people learned to perform for the camera."

Studying these pictures, I had the pleasure of realizing that our ancestors had as much sense of humor, wit and naughtiness as we occasionally do today...

The [exhibition](#) runs through November 7th

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