



**MEDIA ALERT**  
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**City of Los Angeles  
Department of Cultural Affairs  
Announces  
*Experimentations: The Art of Controlled Procedures*  
September 7, 2024 to January 5, 2025**

**Opening reception, Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

The **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** and the **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)** proudly present *Experimentations: The Art of Controlled Procedures*, a group exhibition including **Carmen Argote, John Baldessari, Merce Cunningham\*, Charles Gaines, Jesper Just, Shana Lutker, Benjamin Reiss, and Analia Saban.**

Rooted in Conceptualism and coming from an investigatory place characterized by process, *Experimentations: The Art of Controlled Procedures* is a group exhibition featuring work by artists whose approach to their practice involves a scientific mindset. By designing and executing controlled procedures to test a hypothesis, explore relationships between variables, or investigate phenomena, the artists' ideas are materialized and aestheticized using systems, chance, technology, and other unconventional means.

*Experimentations* celebrates the playful fusion of art and science, and demonstrates how controlled procedures and a spirit of curiosity and inquiry can lead to profound and unexpected artistic collaborations and outcomes. The exhibition includes multi-media installation, video, painting, drawing, sculpture, and performance and invites viewers to engage with the artworks not just as finished products but as manifestations and documentation of ongoing processes of discovery and exploration.

\*Merce Cunningham collaborations include Directors: Arne Arbom, Charles Atlas, Richard Moore, and Heikki Seppälä. Music: John Cage, Toshi Ichianagi, Gordon Mumma, and David Tudor. Design: Jasper Johns, Nam June Paik, Robert Rauschenberg, and Stan VanDerBeek. Dancers: Merce Cunningham and Merce Cunningham Dance Company including Karole Armitage, Carolyn Brown, Louise Burns, Ellen Cornfield, Meg Eginton, Lisa Fox, Meg Harper, Susana Hayman-Chaffey, Cathy Kerr, Chris Komar, Robert Kovich, Joseph Lennon, Barbara Lloyd, Sandra Neels, Albert Reid, Rob Remley, Chase Robinson, Jim Self, Peter Saul, Valda Setterfield, Jeff Slayton, Gus Solomons Jr., and Mel Wong

*Experimentations: The Art of Controlled Procedures* is curated by Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery curator Nancy Meyer.

### **About the Artists**

**Carmen Argote** (b. 1981, Guadalajara; lives and works in Los Angeles) received an MFA and BFA from University of California, Los Angeles (2007, 2004). Solo exhibitions have been held at Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2023); Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2022); Primary, Nottingham (2021); Clockshop, Los Angeles (2020); Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles (2020, 2018); New Museum, New York (2019); and PAOS, Guadalajara (2019). Selected group exhibitions have been held at MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles (2022); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2021); SculptureCenter, Queens (2019); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2017); and Ballroom Marfa (2017). Argote is a recipient of Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2019), Artadia Los Angeles Award (2019), and California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists (2013). Argote's work is in the collections of Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach.

**John Baldessari** (1931–2020) lived and worked in Venice, California. Selected solo exhibitions include Fundación Malba–Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (2024), Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2020), Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach (2019), Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2017), Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2015), Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow (2013), Fondazione Prada, Milan (2010), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2011) and Tate Modern, London (2009), which traveled to Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona (2010), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2010), and Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2010–2011). Selected group exhibitions include the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009) at which he was honored with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, Whitney Biennial (2009, 1983), Documenta VII (1982), Documenta V (1972) and the Carnegie International (1985–86).

**Merce Cunningham** (1919-2009, Centralia, WA) began dancing at a young age. At the Cornish School he first encountered the work of Martha Graham, who would later invite him to join her company in New York; Cunningham had a six-year

tenure as a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company. It was also at Cornish that Cunningham first met John Cage, who would become the greatest influence on his practice, his closest collaborator, and his life partner until Cage's death in 1992. The first show that included only Cunningham dances, a series of six solos with music by Cage, took place in 1944. Four years later, Cunningham and Cage began a relationship with the famed experimental institution Black Mountain College, where, in 1952, Cunningham, along with Robert Rauschenberg, David Tudor, M.C. Richards, and Charles Olson, joined Cage in creating what is often considered the first "Happening." Also at Black Mountain, in 1953, Cunningham first formed a dance company to explore his convention-breaking ideas. The Merce Cunningham Dance Company (originally called Merce Cunningham and Dance Company) would remain in continuous operation until 2011, with Cunningham as Artistic Director until his death in 2009. In 1971, Cunningham and his company became original tenants in Westbeth Artist Housing, remaining in residence there, along with his studio and school, until the company's dissolution. Over the course of his career, Cunningham choreographed 190 dances and over 700 "Events."

**Charles Gaines** (b. 1944, Charleston, South Carolina) earned his M.F.A. from the School of Art and Design at the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1967. Gaines' work is included in prominent public collections such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco CA; and Tate, London, UK. His work has also been presented at the 1975 Whitney Biennial and the Venice Biennale in 2007 and 2015. In 2019, Gaines received the 60th Edward MacDowell Medal. He was inducted into the National Academy of Design's 2020 class of National Academicians and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in May 2022. In 2023, he received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

**Jesper Just** (b. 1974, Copenhagen, Denmark), graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2003 and has since exhibited widely in Denmark and abroad. His work is represented in museum collections worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (US), the Guggenheim Museum (US), MoMA (US), Tate Modern (UK), Kiasma (Finland), Musée d'Art Moderne (Luxembourg), Moderna Museet, (Sweden), The National Gallery of Denmark (Denmark) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark). Jesper Just's work has been shown several times at the Performa biennale in New York, and represented Denmark at the Venice Biennale in 2013. Just lives and works in New York, NY.

**Shana Lutker** (b. 1978, Northport, New York) is a Los Angeles based and received her MFA from UCLA and BA from Brown University. Solo exhibitions and performance include the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Vielmetter Los Angeles, and Barbara Seiler Galerie in Zürich. Lutker's work was included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, Performa 13, and many US and international venues including the SculptureCenter, Hauser & Wirth, CCA

Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, and Orange County Museum of Art. Her work has been written about in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Artillery*, *Flash Art*, *Frieze*, *Hyperallergic*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The New York Times*, among others. From 2014-2021, Lutker served as Executive Director of Project X Foundation for Art & Criticism, the nonprofit publisher of *X-TRA*, and was also on the editorial board and Managing Editor from 2004-2014.

**Benjamin Reiss** (b. 1985, Los Angeles, CA) is an artist based in Los Angeles, working primarily in sculpture. He received an MFA from University of California, Irvine in 2022 and a BFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007. Reiss has been featured in solo and two-person exhibitions at Hunter Shaw Fine Art, Los Angeles (2023, with Michael Kennedy Costa); Harkawik, Los Angeles (2021); Bel Ami, Los Angeles (2018); and *Actual Size*, Los Angeles (2014, with Connor Thompson). Recent group exhibitions include *Tell Me What You Want*, Bel Ami, Los Angeles (2023); *Life Like*, JOAN, Los Angeles (2022); *No More Land West*, Visitor Welcome Center, Los Angeles (2020); and *Deeper Than Inside*, High Art, Paris (2019).

**Analia Saban** (b. 1980, Buenos Aires, Argentina) currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received a BFA in Visual Arts from Loyola University in New Orleans in 2001, followed by an MFA in New Genres at the University of California in Los Angeles in 2005. Saban's works are represented in the collections of the Hammer Museum at UCLA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Getty Research Institute, in Los Angeles; Blaffer Art Museum and The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; San Antonio Museum of Art in San Antonio; Mead Art Museum in Amherst; Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College in New York; Norton Museum of Art in Florida; The Israel Museum in Jerusalem; National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne; Centre Pompidou in Paris; among many others..

### **About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles' vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts

and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit [culture.lacity.gov](http://culture.lacity.gov) or follow us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/culturela](https://facebook.com/culturela), Instagram [@culture\\_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture\\_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

### **About the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery**

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery's (LAMAG) mission is to be responsive to the human experience. Established in 1954, LAMAG is the longest running institution in Los Angeles devoted solely to exhibiting art. The gallery focuses on artists from Los Angeles – in particular underrepresented artists whose work may not otherwise have found a platform. Our exhibitions, educational and public programs aim to inspire conversation about the contemporary issues and ideas that resonate most with the people of Los Angeles.

Many local artists who have exhibited at the gallery have gone on to become fixtures of the national and international art world, including Carlos Almaraz, Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Mark Bradford, Vija Celmins, Harry Gamboa Jr., David Hammons, Barbara Kruger, Kerry James Marshall, Senga Nengudi, Catherine Opie, Sandy Rodriguez, Ed Ruscha, and Bruce and Norman Yonemoto. Today, the gallery continues to build on this rich legacy, operating as a site of discovery for outstanding work by the city's most exciting artists, from recent graduates to practitioners with years of experience.

Offering free admission and programs, LAMAG serves as a welcoming space for everyone, regardless of their race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, domestic partner status, marital status or medical condition.

*It is important that the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery prioritize respect for both the historic culture and the contemporary presence of indigenous peoples throughout California, and especially in the Los Angeles area. To that end, and particularly as a public and civic institution, we acknowledge that our gallery resides on what was historically the homeland of Kizh, Tongva, and Chumash peoples who were dispossessed of their land. If you would like to learn more about the land you are on please visit: <https://native-land.ca>*

For more information, please contact [lamag@lacity.org](mailto:lamag@lacity.org) or visit [lamag.org](http://lamag.org) and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LAMAGBarnsdall> and Instagram [@lamagbarnsdall](https://instagram.com/lamagbarnsdall).

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

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