

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Los Angeles, CA. August 29, 2017 – (updated from 8/22)

On August 31, from 5pm-10pm, the Artists' Loft Museum Los Angeles ([@theALMLA](https://www.instagram.com/theALMLA)), located at 454 Seaton Street #1, near Alameda and Fifth Street in Downtown Los Angeles' Arts District, opens its doors to the public for a free viewing of installation-works, paintings, photographs, sculpture, performance ephemera and video by 35 artists who have called this place homebase over the past 16 years. This building, first used by artists starting in the late 1970s, was one of the earliest legally zoned Artist-in-Residence spaces in DTLA, but now most of the artists have been involuntarily displaced due to crippling rent increases.

The ALMLA is hosting this exhibition as a means to bring attention to the plight of artist-tenants who currently reside in or who have resided in this building and neighborhood. Confirmed artists in the exhibition include many of the ALMLA's 16 years worth of studiomates and houseguests: Anna Astrand, Lisa Anne Auerbach, Morgan Beeby, Mitsuko Brooks, Carson Davis Brown, Nicole Capps, Jim Drain, Alyse Emdur, Remi Emdur, Aaron Freeman, Butchy Fuego, Rochele Gomez, Christina Guerrero Harmon, Vi Ha, Mark Hadyn, Robby Herbst, Lewis Hurrell, Jeff King, Matthew Koons, Joel Kyack, Nick Lobo, Becca Lofchie, Lukas Marxt, Rich Morris, Michael Parker, Jennifer Rainsford, Carlos Reyes, Beau Rice, Samantha Roth, Erin Schneider, Lior Shamriz, Alina Skrzyszewska, Vanja Smiljanic, Jason Smilovic, Julian Smith-Newman, George Stone, Leo Trebels, Steven Vargas, Rosten Woo, Tori Wraanes.

As the DTLA Arts District has become well known across the city, country and beyond, there is little that artist-tenants can do to remain in the neighborhood and the traditional artists' live/work loft has become a relic from a former time. While an opportunity to see "how real artists live and work," the ALMLA is fundamentally a project about tenants' rights and the politics and policies of eviction and involuntary displacement. Without artists able to live or work in the "Arts

District,” the name of the neighborhood will need to change to reflect these new glass towers and metal-clad boxes. Whether it will become the Luxury District, Silicon Lofts, or something else remains to be seen, but regardless of the moniker, it cannot and will not have the same draw to the cultural workers who have called this slice of DTLA home for decades.

Consequently, in response to this and to the larger struggles for affordable housing policy throughout Los Angeles, the ALMLA is working to positively impact housing rights by standing up and speaking out, leveraging our own privilege to create a space, a voice and aid the movements of artists, cultural workers, and all affected communities who have been displaced and continue to be displaced as neighborhoods are destabilized through rampant, unchecked development and landlords cashing in on the city’s unprecedented growth.

The ALMLA has retained the legal services of EDN (the Eviction Defense Network), and are members of the LA Tenants Union, two of the many organizations working for housing fairness across diverse socio-economic communities. The ALMLA is in solidarity with other movements in the city to protect affordable housing and to think through the position of the artist in the cultural landscape. As cultural workers, we fight from the trench we are in, and our battle is to force the City Council to mandate a higher percentage of rent controlled affordable housing units within both new and newer construction.

Of the approximately 6,000 units of new live/work space in the Arts District roughly only 300 are slated as “affordable”. In other words, only 5% of new construction is available for single renters making around \$30,000 or families bringing home around \$50,000. And these are small apartments, not live-work artist studios. And there is no rent control for any of us. Almost one third of renters in Los Angeles pay half or more of their income on rent.

ALMLA Editions: Both blank and silk screened ALMLA canvas window signs are available to purchase as a fundraiser for supporters to hang out their own windows. Your housing rights window sign will signal support for tenants’ rights throughout Los Angeles. Silkscreened ALMLA signs will be \$10. Pre-orders are welcome!

The ALMLA opens our home and our studios to the public on August 31, 5pm - 10pm and by appointment. Please send press inquiries to loftmuseum@gmail.com.