



CALIFORNIA GIRLS
FROM LEFT: MAGGIE KAYNE OF
KAYNE GRIFFIN CORCORAN
GALLERY; JAMES TURRELL'S
INSIDE MY HEAD. BELOW:
RECOVERING FROM A LONG
DAY OF ART EXPLORATION.

ELISABETH TNT HEADS WEST TO MEET THE WOMEN DRIVING THE LOS ANGELES ART SCENE.



The most important accessory in Los Angeles has to be a car. I wouldn't call myself the most seasoned driver (Uber is my vehicle of choice), but, always one to dive into local custom, I rented a sporty little BMW convertible upon arriving at LAX. Cruising from Beverly Hills to West Hollywood to

Venice Beach, along spectacular Ocean Avenue toward Malibu and up into the hills, I fell head over heels. Americans might dream of Paris, but my heart skipped a beat when, on a friend's terrace in Bel Air, I looked down across the sprawling metropolis and saw an ocean of sparkling lights. California love.

The highlight of my trip was being taken on an art-discovery tour by **Bettina Korek**, a local friend and curator who runs the online guide ForYourArt, with its own exhibition space on Wilshire. We stopped in at 356 South Mission Road, an exhibition-performance space run by artist **Laura Owens** with gallerist **Gavin Brown** and **Wendy Yao** of the supercool bookstore Ooga Booga, and then the Underground Museum, a similar artist-run space helmed by **Noah Davis**.



SHE'S GOT MOVES
MICHELLE JOAN PAPIILLION,
WEARING A CHANEL DRESS
AND MARNI SHOES, OUTSIDE
HER NEW GALLERY, PAPIILLION,
IN LEIMERT PARK.

Bettina also took me to Culver City—the main gallery hub. Conveniently (for once in L.A.), everything there is confined to a small area, so in a few hours you can take in a whole string of shows. I particularly liked those at Blum & Poe, China Art Objects Galleries (where **Julia Dault** was busy installing her works when we passed through), and David Kordansky. At Kordansky we were lucky to get a sneak peek at **Mary Weatherford**'s paintings and neon works. The artist herself buzzed with energy upon hearing I was a *Vogue* girl, eagerly wanting to discuss her opening-night-outfit options.

What I found most inspiring about L.A.'s art scene was the unexpected young female force it bears. I met a series of passionate and very noteworthy women—gallerists and artists alike. What a relief from art-world machismo! Take **Michelle Joan Papillion**, who, with a great eye for emerging talent, recently set up shop in Leimert Park, an area with few galleries. "I think of Leimert Park as a flower waiting to bloom," she told me. "Three years from now, this place will be the talk of the art-and-culture scene."

The best moment of the trip came at Kayne Griffin Corcoran, a gallery that, thanks to its youngest partner, **Maggie Kayne**, was designed in part by the artist **James Turrell**. *Inside My Head*, a permanent Turrell installation at the gallery (viewable by appointment), had me lying on my back in a darkened room gazing up at the ceiling. Slowly the lights changed through a rainbow of colors. The experience took me into a dreamlike state where I no longer knew where my imagination would carry me. Upon exiting I found Bettina, Maggie, and another friend, **Liz Goldwyn**, quietly sipping tea in the gallery's beautiful courtyard. I've by no means discovered all of Los Angeles quite yet, but I'm much intrigued. I will be back. □ FLASH>54

PAPIILLION: STEVEN SIMKO. SITTINGS EDITOR: SALLY LYNDLEY. HAIR: DAVEN FOR ORIBE. HAIR CARE: MAKEUP: SANDRA GANZER FOR CHANEL BEAUTÉ. KAYNE: ANNABEL MEHRAN. TURRELL: *INSIDE MY HEAD*, 2013. L.E.D. LIGHT AND AUDIO, 16' X 8' DIAMETER X 15' HIGH; ROBERT WEDEMEYER. COURTESY OF KAYNE GRIFFIN CORCORAN, LOS ANGELES. TNT: COURTESY OF LIZ GOLDWYN. DETAILS, SEE IN THIS ISSUE.