

"5 Free Art Shows to See in L.A. This Week," *LA Weekly*. 19 April 2017. Web.

**Kayne Griffin Corcoran**

**LA WEEKLY**

## **5 Free Art Shows to See in L.A. This Week: Pow Wow Seeker**

Miami-based artist Dara Friedman placed an ad on Powwows.com, an online calendar of the Native American gatherings, to find actors for her film *Mother Drum*. Then she traveled to the Swinomish Reservation in Washington, Coeur d'Alene Reservation in Idaho and Crow Reservation in Montana to meet and film those who responded. The drum circles and dancing depicted in her film, currently playing at Kayne Griffin Corcoran, were just for her camera, separate from any larger gatherings happening at the same time. Still, the footage has a documentary feel. The dancers' intricate costumes and long braids contrast with their relatively mundane surroundings (a parking garage, a shed in the background), but Friedman has done little to make her film seem portentous or to impose any narrative structure on its actors. She seems just to be acknowledging that there is power in these communal acts by indigenous Americans at this moment in history. One of the performers, Cynthia Jim, wrote in a letter that's posted on the gallery's website: "The drum, a transformative animate member of creation, awaits the life-giving instructions of all those that engage in its power." *1201 S. La Brea Ave., Mid-Wilshire; through May 13. (310) 586-6886*

- Catherine Wagley