



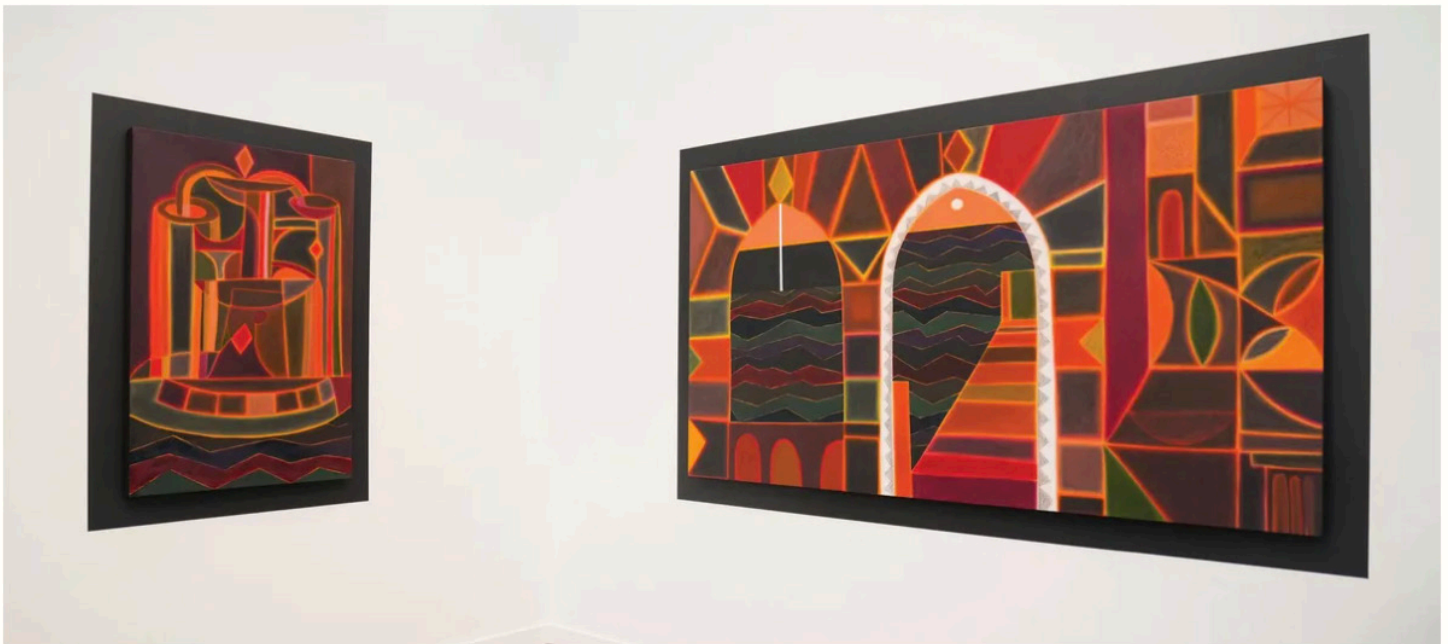
THE ART NEWSPAPER

Frieze Los Angeles 2024
Feature

In pictures: Frieze Los Angeles's Focus section explores the notion of 'ecologies'

Alexander Morrison
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Essence Harden, the curator of the section for young galleries, picks out some highlights

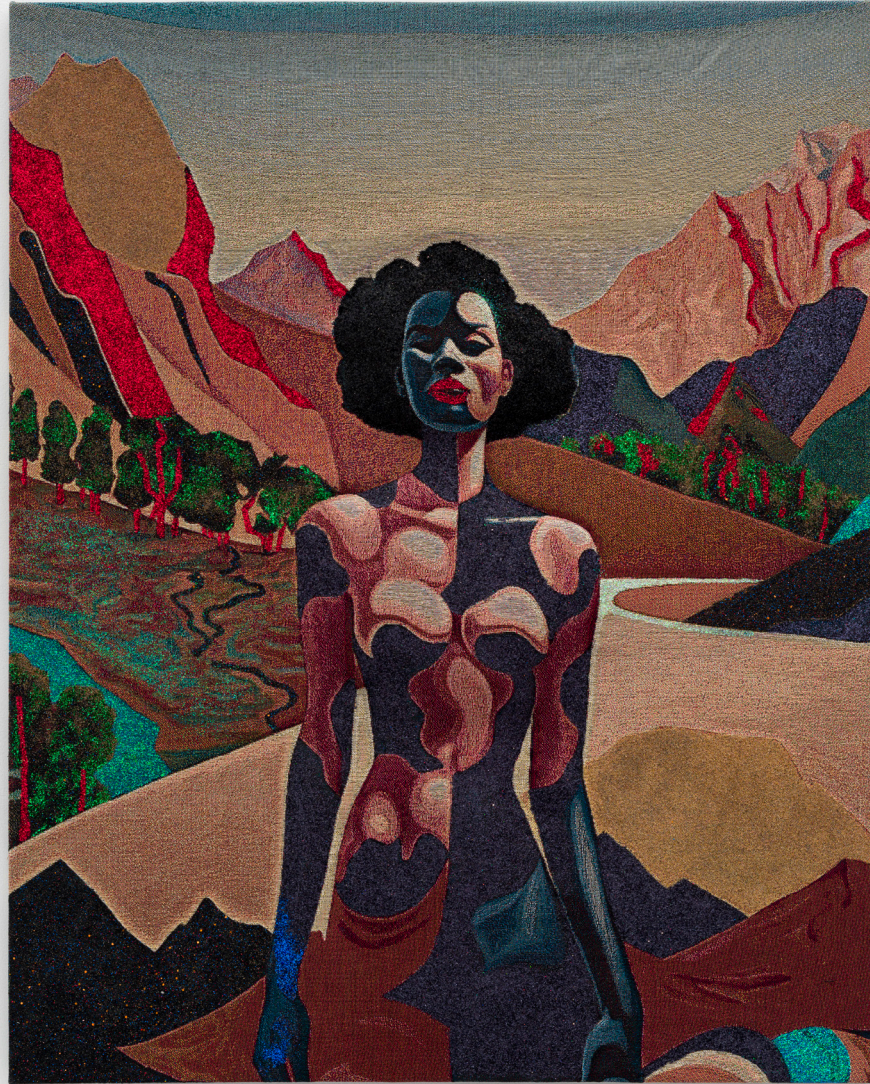


From left: Muzae Sesay's *Kamara Fountain* (2024) and *Diamond Dock* (2024), pt.2

Gallery
Eric Thayer

Essence Harden—an artist, curator and writer—is deeply rooted in the art scene of Los Angeles, where she lives and works as a visual arts curator at the California African American Museum. After taking on that role, she said that she looked forward to “highlighting the work of collectors and collectives, and cultivating scholarship, on Black visual culture and the West”. This year, Harden is the curator of the Focus section at Frieze Los Angeles, bringing together 12 galleries that have all opened in the past dozen years. Most of the artists in the section, organised around the theme of “ecology”, are represented by Californian galleries, and they all make work with which Harden says she has a “deep relationship”. Harden walked us through some of her highlights in the section.

Akea Brionne, *Valley of Dreams* (2024), Lyles & King



Akea Brionne, *Valley of Dreams* (2024), at Lyles & King
Eric Thayer

To create her vibrant images, Akea Brionne feeds photographs from her family archive into a private server, adding artificial intelligence prompts to create new scenes that “reinvent the historical language around figuration and Blackness”, Harden says. The images reference the historical movement of Black communities between Louisiana and California—with the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico in between—while retaining a surreal, futuristic edge.