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Sabin Aell, "On My Way to Everything," mixed media installation.

Walker Fine Art

Reviewed: *Infinite Layers* at Walker, Four More Shows to See Now

MICHAEL PAGLIA | DECEMBER 28, 2017 | 6:48AM

word

667 The new year promises new exhibits that continue to showcase this city's vibrant art scene. Keep reading for a fresh look at *Infinite Layers* at Walker Fine Art, as well as capsule reviews of four more shows around town.

Infinite Layers. Over the past year, Bobbi Walker has been fine-tuning her group shows, putting the focus

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great example, with everything in the show having a stripped-down simplicity. The color-field panels by Lindsay Halleckson comprise elegant all-over grounds, with the color of the grounds changing gradually as they ascend the panels. Equally reliant on predominating colored grounds are Chris Richter's non-objective abstractions. Laura Guese's billowy abstract paintings have been visually simplified by her pared-down palette, which is dominated by blue and white. A similar contrast between density and simplicity is seen in the mandala-like wall works by Allison Svoboda. *Infinite Layers* also includes two installations. The first, by Barbara Sorensen, is made up of four panels covered in cut dryer hose painted white so that it looks like porcelain. In the back is Sabin Aell's marvelous wrap-around geometric abstraction that combines stenciled shapes and organically evocative glass panels juxtaposed with the overall slick aesthetic. Through January 13 at Walker Fine Art, 300 West 11th Avenue, #A, 303-355-8955, walkerfineart.com.

REDDER, MEOW WOLF IS NOT HIPSTER STUFF: It's Self-Expression Through All Forms of Art

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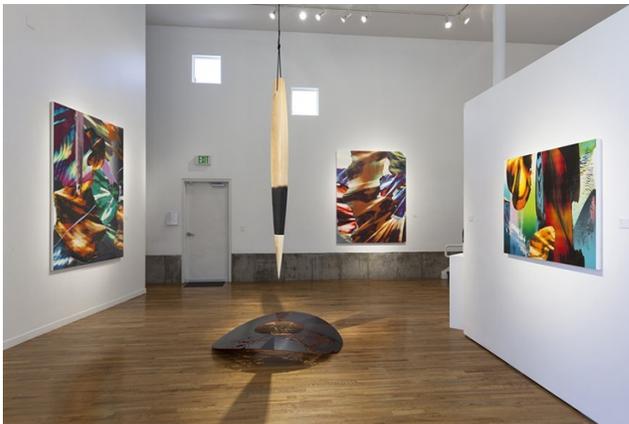
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- **Denver Art Museum Building for the Future With *Then, Now, Next***
- **Review: *Her Paris* Shows More Art Herstory at DAM**



Paintings by Ryan Magyar; sculpture by Michael Clapper.

Wes Magyar

Transmutations. The Havu gallery brings together three abstractionists – a sculptor, a painter and an artist who uses smoke on paper to create drawings

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floor space are sculptures by prominent Denver artist Michael Clapper, a highly experimental artist; stylistically, these works are all over the place. The installation “Hope for the Aw-A,” with its suspended element, is particularly unexpected. The standout is the totemic “Taba (Village),” a compressed oval of limestone mounted onto a roughly wedge-shaped chunk of granite; the piece has a monumentality that goes way beyond its actual size. Surrounding the Clappers are paintings by New York artist Ryan Magyar, who puts a fresh twist on abstract expressionism. The compositions are crowded with complex shapes tamed by Magyar’s meticulous surfaces, which are mirror-flat. The last of the trio is artist Dennis Lee Mitchell, a former Chicagoan now living in Virginia, who works with torches to stain paper with the resulting smoke. Extended through January 13 at William Havu Gallery, 1040 Cherokee Street, 303-893-2360, williamhavugallery.com. Read the full [review of *Transmutations*](#).

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Museo de Las Americas

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Las (H)adas. *Las (H)adas*, curated by Maruca Salazar at the Museo de las Americas, explores the work of five women artists. The parenthetical “H” in the title gives the exhibit two meanings: Without the “H,” it’s a Spanish suffix used to make a word feminine; with it, the word means “fairies.” For Salazar, these five women are the fairy godmothers of Latina art in Colorado. However, in addition to their efforts, *Las (H)adas* also has two freestanding components. One of those, “Kaleidoscope Project,” includes thousands of butterflies created by women in domestic-violence programs. The five artists in the main part of the show are Judy Miranda, Meggan DeAnza, Arlette Lucero, Ana María Hernando and the late Jessica Luna. Each was assigned her own large space separate from the work of the others. Miranda, DeAnza and Lucero create classic Chicano-style work, crammed with

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American themes in a feminist context. Luna is represented by a collection of artfully designed figural dolls that are poignantly beautiful. Through January 13 at the Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Drive, 303-571-4401, museo.org. Read the full *review of Las (H)adas*.

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"In the Studio," Marie Bashkirtseff, 1881.

Denver Art Museum

Her Paris. Women artists have finally been given their due over the past few years, with dozens of exhibits celebrating their heretofore ignored contributions. The current blockbuster at the Denver Art Museum, *Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism*, is a spectacular example of this trend. Though a few women artists had emerged earlier, it was during the second half of the nineteenth century that

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history, great numbers of women took up painting. Male artists of the day were having none of it, and it wasn't until 1897 that women were even allowed to enroll at the École des Beaux-Arts, the Parisian art school. Don't be misled by the second part of the exhibit's title: Although some of the included artists are impressionists, others are not – most notably, Rosa Bonheur, a giant of nineteenth-century realism. And while the show, curated by Laurence Madeline, includes such well-known artists as Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot and Marie Bracquemond, others are downright obscure, including Marie Bashkirtseff, Anna Ancher and Marie Louise Breslau. Through January 14 at the Denver Art Museum, 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway, 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org.

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Closed for renovations.

Denver Art Museum

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Then, Now, Next. The Denver Art Museum's North Building – known as the Ponti in honor of its designer, Gio Ponti – will be closed for three years during an extensive rehabilitation, with a goal of completing the work in time for the building's fiftieth anniversary, in 2021. To explain what the Ponti is and how it's going to change, the DAM has mounted *Then, Now, Next: Evolution of an Architectural Icon*, on view in the Hamilton Building. The show is more informational than inspirational, laying out a simple narrative about the past, present and future of the Ponti. An important inclusion is the original model from 1966 by Gio Ponti and his Denver-based collaborator, James Sudler. Nearby is the new model by Fentress Architects and Machado Silvetti, the two firms overseeing the rehabilitation. The Fentress/Silvetti model reveals the

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THE MOST RADICAL IS THE AGGRESSIVE

way that the front of the building is to be dealt with. It's dangerous to mess with a structure's principal vista, but despite the inherent dangers, the plans for the Ponti appear amazingly sensitive.

Through February 25 at the Denver Art Museum, 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway, 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. Read the full [review of *Then, Now, Next*](#).

See more art gallery listings in the [Westword calendar](#).

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Michael Paglia is an art historian and writer whose columns have appeared in *Westword* since 1995; his essays on the visual arts have also been published in national periodicals including *Art News*, *Architecture*, *Art Ltd.*, *Modernism*, *Art & Auction* and *Sculpture Magazine*. He taught art history at the University of Colorado Denver.

CONTACT:

[Michael Paglia](#)

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to See Now

"A Night With Janis Joplin"

Sat., Feb. 3, 7:30pm

TICKETS

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MEOW WOLF WILL Create a New World in the Arty Heart of Denver

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PATRICIA CALHOUN | **JANUARY 4, 2018** | **8:00AM**

18k **Meow Wolf** is about to make a purrfect landing in Denver. In **one**
61 **of the worst-kept secrets in town**, at 10 a.m. today, January 4, the ten-year-old Santa Fe arts collective and its new partners will announce where they'll build Meow Wolf's first permanent exhibition in a major market. And it's a major project, too: a \$50 million, four-story (plus mezzanine), 90,000-square-foot building that will hold 60,000 square feet of exhibitions, three times the size of Meow Wolf's *House of Eternal Return* in Santa Fe, along with a restaurant, bar and retail and support spaces.

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For the past year, Meow Wolf has explored various spots around Denver – the Sports Castle, the old *Denver Post* plant off I-70. And the winner? A spot right in the gritty heart of Denver, a triangular space created by the Auraria Parkway and the viaducts of Colfax Avenue and Interstate 25, just across the

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Elitch Gardens...which is significant, because Meow Wolf's Denver development partner is Revesco Properties, a real estate and management company that's an owner and managing partner in Elitch Gardens. In fact, the Meow Wolf team will work out of Elitch's HR office before that building is demolished and Meow Wolf Denver constructed. Groundbreaking is slated for this spring; Meow Wolf Denver's target opening is early 2020.

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Vince Kadlubek has vision.

Twitter

RELATED STORIES

- **Meow Wolf Creates New Itchy-O Video, Sponsors Hallowmass**
- **Denver DIY Arts Groups Receiving \$20,000 From the City, \$34,000 From Meow Wolf**
- **Meow Wolf, Santa Fe's Art Sensation, Could Add a Denver Outpost**

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Meow Wolf Denver is quite an

got its start in Santa Fe ten years ago as so many arts efforts do, with big ideas and little money. Did co-founder Vince Kadlubek ever think Meow Wolf would get this far? "It was the type of dreaming that 'One day, I'm going to be a rock star.' Yeah, there's a sliver of possibility...but the truth was, we were restaurant workers pulling in \$50 a night and trying to pay rent and then working on Meow Wolf at night. It felt like a total impossibility for it to ever be a successful business.

"We knew we could create great things, but it would take money," he continues. And as any arts group knows, money can be hard to find.

Then three years ago, Kadlubek floated an idea for a groundbreaking exhibit, an immersive experience, past a former boss at a Santa Fe movie theater: George RR Martin, creator of *Game of Thrones*. "I knew George. He actually fired me," he recalls. "It was kind of a long shot; I did not expect him to get back to me."

But Martin not only got back to

him, he bought the old Silver Lanes

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that allowed Meow Wolf to create the *House of Eternal Return*. "We still didn't have money, but we had a lease," Kadlubek says. "This was real. This was really real."

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The view of Meow Wolf Denver from Auraria Parkway.

Shears Adkins Rockmore Architects

So real that in March 2016 the group opened the 20,000-square-foot *House of Eternal Return*, and it became an immediate hit...not just in Santa Fe, but around the globe. People were enchanted by the overwhelming, immersive experience that took them through a maze of creativity and possibilities, all created by local artists. "It was kind of this uncanny valley between people who saw what we did as really interesting and engaging artwork, and then bridging that to a successful business," Kadlubek recalls.

"By July of 2016," he continues, "we saw the sort of magnitude, the lines out the door, the five-star reviews, the articles in international publications, and

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than Santa Fe, other cities could have this.' And that's what we hope to spark."

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Meow Wolf presents Itchy-O – 'Fr...



As the Meow Wolf team began looking at other cities, Denver was a natural, since the artists had spent plenty of time in the Mile High City and knew many people in the arts scene, including the founders of **Rhinocerosopolis, which had just been closed in the wake of the Ghost Ship fire**. If Meow Wolf already had a high profile with *House of Eternal Return*, that profile only grew as the group started a DIY fund to help community art spaces threatened with closure with rent and infrastructure improvements. Over the past year, the fund has given \$215,000 to over a hundred groups across the country, including Rhinocerosopolis and Glob. Meow Wolf was also tapped to distribute **City of Denver funds to local DIY groups**.

Last January, the Meow Wolf crew

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artists, starting with a meeting at Forest Room 5. It was a tough time for members of Denver's DIY arts scene, already threatened by rising rents; the crackdown after Ghost Ship only heightened artists' concerns. But Kadlubek says they never treated the Meow Wolf team as interlopers...and Denver groups such as Itchy-O traveled to Santa Fe to perform at *House of Eternal Return* (see video above). "The creative communities have been welcoming, the art institutions have been welcoming," he adds. "Denver doesn't have the insular, protective territorialism.... Denver's pushing things, with an influx of young people, new money, new ways to do business."

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Art in the heart of the city.

Meow Wolf

And while "developer" can be a dirty word in this town, the Meow Wolf team was impressed with what they found here. "There's a sense of 21st-century development here in Denver that feels almost

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have in the country," Kadlubek

says. "There are really interesting, hard-to-describe multi-use developments here." And what's old is new again: Meow Wolf got a lot of early support from Dana Crawford, the power behind Larimer Square and then, fifty years later, the renovation of Union Station. Although Crawford's candidate was not chosen for Meow Wolf Denver's location, she'll be a consultant on the project, and is already talking to the group about how to take advantage of the admittedly challenging site. (If you've ever been to Mile High Station, where today's announcement will be, you know how to get there. If not...)

"It's so funky," Kadlubek admits. "It's confusing to get to, and getting to it will almost be part of the experience."

Almost. But once you're inside, you'll be in a different world. From Denver, and from *House of Eternal Return*, too. "If Santa Fe's *House* brought you into one family's life, the Denver experience is going to take you into an entire world....

That's how we're distinguishing the two," Kadlubek says.

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concept as Meow Wolf will be revealing for now; more will be revealed in the second quarter of 2018, when fundraising will also begin in earnest. But plans are already solid enough that 2020 tickets will be available today at meowwolf.com, and the partners are already anticipating hiring between 150 and 300 local artists and craftspeople. "We're going to spend the money well, on the most awesome creatives," Kadlubek promises. "We're getting ready to move." The twenty-year lease is already signed, and the project is moving forward through the city's permitting and planning processes.

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Plans for Meow Wolf Denver.

Meow Wolf

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Meow Wolf isn't stopping in Denver, though. The group is still talking to Austin and Las Vegas, runners-

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and it's also looking at possibilities in Washington, D.C., Phoenix and Minneapolis. But Meow Wolf is willing to share the immersive market. "We don't have to do all of them," says Kadlubek. "It would feel like McDonald's. We want to feel like we're helping with the instigation of an entirely new industry centered around creativity."

There are challenges ahead, of course. Raising the money is no guarantee; arts groups in Denver are already struggling to come up with the cash for their own projects, and may not take kindly to a Santa Fe outfit dipping into that same pot, even if it is hiring local artists. And Meow Wolf will have to grow, and quickly, to handle everything on its plate. "We have created project management systems," Kadlubek says. "Our culture exists in every conversation that we have with each other...our culture will stay alive. It's about respect, love, listening, supporting."

Still, many great arts efforts have started across the country in the past decade and gone nowhere.

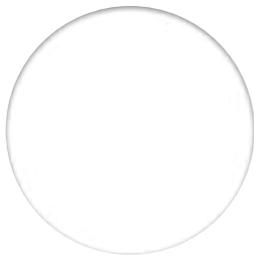
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experience that gave customers a type of freedom to explore and be curious and discover in a way no other consumer experience has ever done," Kadlubek concludes. "And it really just comes out of trusting and respecting people and believing that they're not going to vandalize, they don't need to be controlled, they don't need to go along a certain path, they don't need maps and guides, they don't need their hands held.... A lot of the art world has not given credit to the general population, that they need dumb art or *Star Wars*. Actually, the general population wants to go see weird and creative stuff."

Sounds purrfect.

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Patricia Calhoun co-founded *Westword* in 1982 and she's been the editor ever since. She's a regular contributor to the weekly CPT12 roundtable on *Colorado Inside Out*, plus a real journalist in John Sayles's *Silver City*, once interviewed President Bill Clinton while wearing a hat and flops, and has been honored with numerous national awards for her columns and feature-writing.

CONTACT: [Patricia Calhoun](#)
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Celebrations in
Denver
- Naked Yoga
Streaks Into
Denver



Check out *Sin Titulo* and the rest of MCA Denver's *Saber Acomodar* exhibit for only a penny on Saturday.

Ruben Mendez

Ten Things to Do in Denver for \$10 and

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BYRON GRAHAM | **JANUARY 4, 2018** | **7:15AM****KEEP SCROLLING OR CLICK TO READ:**

The first weekend of the new year is nigh, and artsy locals are providing ample opportunities to enjoy the best of what Denver's creative community has to offer all weekend long. From essentially free museum days and art walks to rodeo parades and rollicking concerts, the city has enough events to keep even those with the most discerning tastes entertained until the work week rolls around. Even better, for readers who are short on funds but high on life, the following ten events all cost less than \$10 to attend, including five freebies.

AA



Celebrate the return of the National Western Stock Show at the Kick-Off Parade today at noon.

Paul Andrews

RELATED STORIES

- **[Eight Arty Things to Do This Weekend in Denver](#)**
- **[The Ten Best Comedy Events in Denver in January](#)**

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Stock Show Kick-Off Parade

Thursday, January 4, noon

Denver Union Station

Free

The National Western Stock Show is a big ol' deal around these parts, and accordingly, tickets are a hot item. If you want to get a taste of the Stock Show ceremony without ponying up cash, an ideal opportunity awaits at the Stock Show Kick-Off Parade, which commences at Union Station today at noon. Celebrate cowboy culture with a horse-driven cattle drive followed by floats, marching bands and other rodeo staples. Admission is free but the streets will be crowded, so arriving early is recommended. Visit the [National Western Stock Show's events calendar](#) for more information.

WRITE CLUB: Anustart

Thursday, January 4, 6 p.m.

Syntax Physic Opera

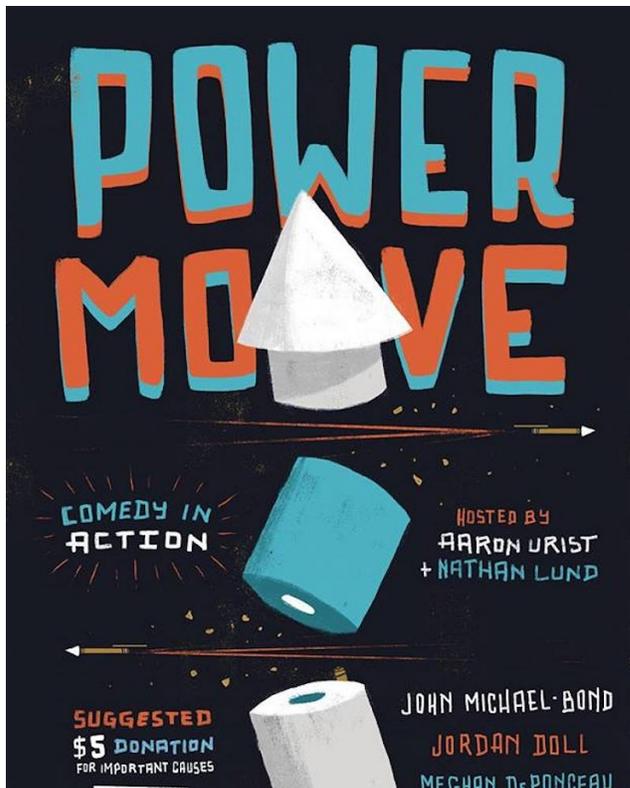
\$10 Donation

Although writers appear to be a harmlessly bookish bunch, a fierce sense of competition lurks beneath our tweedy and bespectacled facades. Write Club Denver, a self-described "literary thundersona "

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with a series of head-to-head competitive readings from Denver-based authors, comedians, performers and creatives. With an earlier start time befitting the season's early sunsets, Write Club is getting a punny start to the new year with "Anustart" (sound it out phonetically), offering up stories from Nate Ragolia, Kat Atwell, Jason Brown, Kevin T. Phillips, Jason Berkowitz and Rachel Trignano. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a 7 p.m. start. A suggested donation of \$10 will be collected at the door, though no one will be turned away. Visit [Write Club Denver's Facebook events page](#) to learn more.

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Geoff Tice

Power Move: Comedy in Action

Thursday, January 4, 8 p.m.

Image Brew

\$5 Donation

Stand up for a good cause at Nathan Lund and Aaron Urist's Power Move: Comedy in Action, an evening of comedy raising funds for worthy causes. January's show includes a cavalcade of comics including locals April Kaprelian, Meghan DePonceau and Anthony Siraguse, prodigal sons Jordan Doll and Brett Hiker, and Los Angeles's John-Michael Bond (*The Hard Times*). Proceeds from guests' suggested \$5 donations will benefit **CHARG resource center**. Audience members will enjoy free brews from Ratio Beerworks and STEM Ciders. Find more information on [Power Move's Facebook events page](#).

Queen City Companion

Thursday, January 4, 8 p.m.

Mutiny Information Cafe

Free

Although the misconduct allegations against Garrison Keillor (not to mention his problematic

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Prairie Home Companion in a troubling new light, there's no need to dismiss the efforts of the thousands of performers who've been inspired by the show. Spearheaded by Christie Buchele of the *Empty Girlfriend* podcast and the Pussy Bros. standup supergroup, Queen City Companion invites a rogues' gallery of local comics, writers, musicians and other creatives to share their entirely fabricated tales through whatever medium suits them best. United by a common theme, the storytellers can let their imaginations run free, with everything recorded for posterity thanks to resident Mutiny lackey and Denver comic Cory Helie. The show is starting the new year off right with a lineup that includes Creative Strategies for Change's Kate Wintz, Suspect Press editor Amanda Mills EK, Claire Heywood, the Narrators' Ron Doyle, actor Matthew Blood-Smyth, and comedians Rachel Weeks and Jordan Doll. Admission is free; find more details on the event's [Facebook page](#), where you'll also find a [link to listen to other episodes](#).

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Art District on Santa Fe

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January First Friday Art Walk **Friday, January 5, 5:30-9:30 p.m.**

Art District on Santa Fe

Free

An artsy tradition held dear by many Denverites, the First Friday Art Walk in the Santa Fe Arts District remains one of the best ways to keep abreast of the city's thriving arts and culture scene. Galleries open their doors to the public, food trucks abound, and the mood is festive, whatever the climes. With more than 100 participating galleries, shops and restaurants, you could return to the First Friday Art Walk every month and still miss out on something worthy each time. Find more information on the [Art District on Santa Fe's Facebook events page](#).



The Gentleman Bank Robber

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Europa Coffeehouse

Free

The fascinating story of "Butch Lesbian Freedom Fighter" Rita Bo Brown, *The Gentleman Bank Robber* is a new documentary from filmmaker Julie Perini. An anti-establishment activist whose affiliation with the militant George Jackson Brigade, Brown lived the wild life of a righteous outlaw, earning the titular nickname for her masculine style of dress and gentle manner with the employees of the banks she robbed to fund revolutionary efforts. The 45-minute screening will be followed by a discussion of the film conducted by [Unstoppable Publication](#). Admission is free, but organizers will be raising funds for Brown's medical expenses. Visit [Unstoppable's Facebook events page](#) for more details.

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**15th Anniversary Celebration
with Bud Bronson & the Good**

Friday, January 5, 8 p.m.

Larimer Lounge

Free

Fifteen years is a long damn time for a venue to survive in Denver's fickle and cutthroat market, but the Larimer Lounge has managed to endure all the same. Celebrate the longevity of one of the city's great concert halls on Friday, January 5, with a rousing free show spotlighting Chocolate Diamond, Panther Martin, and Bud Bronson & the Good Timers. Visit the [Larimer Lounge's events calendar](#) to find out more.

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Kelly Shroads

Penny Admission for Colorado

Residents

Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m.

MCA Denver

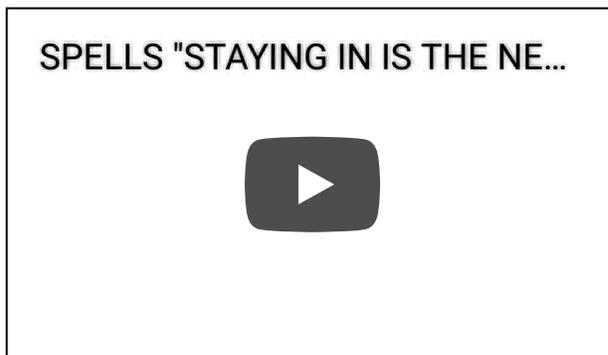
One cent

For Coloradans who love art but balk at admission fees, First Saturdays are a godsend. If your

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time from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and see the entire collection all for one red American cent. With the *Saber Acomodar* exhibition, which highlights 25 different Jalisco artists, and Pose's street art installation "Sunshine and Its Shadow" currently on display, it's well worth paying MCA's modest admission fees. But if you're extra-thrifty and don't mind a crowd, a copper Lincoln is all you'll need to get in on Saturday. This deal is only available to Colorado residents, so pay up, tourists. Visit [MCA Denver online](#) to learn more.

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SPELLS 7" Release Party

Saturday, January 6, 8:30 p.m.

hi-dive

\$8

Denver's music scene is fully under the spell of vacation rockers SPELLS, which is gearing up to release its new 7" record, *Big Boring Meeting*. The show also coincides with the release of another 7" from

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Quality Audio Recordings label mate Hooper, who'll be joining the lineup to celebrate the release of *No Monument*. With local favorites Lawsuit Models on opening duty, the evening promises to be a grand party for the whole Denver music scene. Learn more and buy tickets, \$8, from [Ticketfly](#).

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Colorado Symphony

**Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute:
Sacrifice for Justice
Tuesday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.**

Boettcher Concert Hall

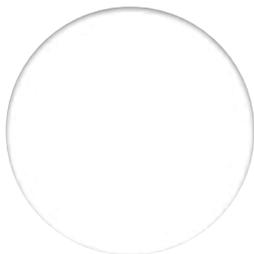
Free with registration

Though Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day isn't officially until January 15, a number of tributes to the slain

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Colorado Symphony's is presenting an honorary concert poignantly titled "Sacrifice for Justice." Conducted by Scott O'Neil and offering the vocal talents of mezzo soprano Diana Tesh, the stirring program also includes guest performances by Michael Chipman, Stephanie Hancock, and Rajdulari. The ceremonies will also honor six recipients of Humanitarian Awards recognized by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission. Admission is free, but registering for tickets is required. Visit the [Colorado Symphony's events calendar](#) for more details.

Looking for more to do? Visit [Westword's calendar online](#).



Byron Graham has told jokes on a staggering variety of stages all across the country, from traditional clubs and theaters to nursing homes and riverboats. Since 2013, he's chronicled Denver's comedy scene for *Westword*. He opposes any patriarchies or hegemonies and disapproves of cargo shorts.

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