



Two women atop Jeffrey Pine on Sentinel Dome, photographer unknown.

COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BOOM STAFF

The *Boom* List

What to do, see, and read this fall in California

Attend “A Century Beyond Muir,” a symposium at UCLA on November 13. Examine John Muir’s legacy and changing California views of nature, conservation, and wildland use and management with many of the contributors to this issue of *Boom*. Historian Richard White will speak on “California Time” and former California Attorney General John Van de Kamp on his support for taking down O’Shaughnessy Dam and restoring Hetch Hetch Valley in Yosemite National Park. Reading a magazine is usually—and rightly so—a solitary experience. But don’t miss this opportunity to engage with *Boom*’s writers in the wild! Make sure to check our website, boomcalifornia.com, for all the details and other *Boom* events around California this fall.

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Celebrate Yosemite's 150th birthday. Commemorations of Yosemite's founding have been thick on the ground this year. The best way to mark the occasion is with a visit to the park, but there are plenty of other ways to get into the spirit of this sesquicentennial year. *Yosemite: A Storied Landscape*, a new exhibit at the California Historical Society in San Francisco, takes the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the park as an opportunity to look at the nearly six-thousand-year history of humans in the Yosemite Valley. The Yosemite Conservancy has published a trio of books for dipping into whenever the need for wildness, or natural beauty may strike. *Yosemite Meditations for Adventurers* is a collection of photographs and quotations from Helen Keller, T.S. Eliot, Edward Abbey, Susan Sontag, and many others. *Yosemite in Pictures* is a slim volume of Yosemite photographs most visitors probably wish they could capture. Dayton Duncan's *Seed of the Future: Yosemite and the Evolution of the National Park Idea* is a coffee table history of the founding of the park and also, as you would expect, gorgeously illustrated.

Explore Humboldt Bay's shoreline with Aldaron Laird at the Humboldt Arts Council. In 2013, photographer and environmental planner Aldaron Laird finished a comprehensive mapping and inventory of Humboldt Bay's 102-mile shoreline. Traveling on foot and by kayak, he took over 15,000 photographs to document the bay's history, land use, and ecology, and to contemplate its future in the face of rising sea levels. *Aldaron's Walkabout: An Artistic and Scientific Exploration of Humboldt Bay* runs from October 3 to November 30.

Read *Aridtopia: Essays on Art and Culture from Deserts in the Southwest United States*. The title of Tyler Stallings's newest book was inspired by Ernest Callenbach's 1975 novel *Ecotopia*, in which northern California, Washington, and Oregon secede from the United States to form a sustainable society. *Aridtopia* is Stallings's speculative secessionist community of the southwest in this collection of essays that is part manifesto and part commentary on everything from motorcycle gangs and the LA Aqueduct to Michael Heizer's *Levitated Mass* and Kim Stringfellow's *Jackrabbit Homestead*.

See *Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California* at Oakland's Museum of California. Opening on October 20

and running until April 2015, this exhibition looks at the artistic communities behind four pivotal times and places in the history of California art: San Francisco in the 1930s, the California School of Fine Arts in the 1940s and 1950s, UC Davis in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Mission District in San Francisco in the 1990s. By focusing on the people as much as their works, *Fertile Ground* aims to tell the stories of artistic breakthroughs, social changes, and personal histories. Artists examined include Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Imogen Cunningham, Richard Diebenkorn, Wayne Thiebaud, Margaret Kilgallen, and Amy Franceschini.

Visit the annual Weed Show in Twentynine Palms. Desert legend has it that the Weed Show got its start when a group of local ladies hosting an art lecture were embarrassed by the lack of fresh flowers to welcome their invited speaker, who responded to her hosts' apologies by saying, "Why do you need fresh flowers when you have so many beautiful weeds?" In 1941 the Women's Club of Twentynine Palms hosted the first Weed Show, and the event has become a slightly strange and entirely wonderful celebration of native desert plants and found objects. Held the first full weekend of November each year, full details, including instructions on how to enter, can be found at 29palmshistorical.com

Attend the 25th annual Envisioning California conference at the Sacramento Library Tsakopoulos Galleria on October 3. Hosted by the Center for California Studies at California State University Sacramento, this year's edition of the conference is all about transportation—aging infrastructure, evolving security, and environmental goals, and the risks and rewards of potential policy prescriptions. *Moving On* aims to come at these questions from a particularly Californian perspective, although the answers could have much wider implications. Visit csus.edu/calst/california_studies.html for full details.

Check out *100 Not So Famous Views of LA* by Barbara Thomason. The paintings in Barbara Thomason's new book capture the every day beauty in one hundred less-than-iconic Los Angeles scenes, from natural disasters to prosaic portraits of daily life. Thomason's achievement is showing that LA is neither too vast nor too ephemeral to understand, if you know where and how to look. Image 96, "Elysian Valley," is on the facing page. **B**

