



Lunch Break: Homage to Pyle, 2013, Warren Chang. COURTESY OF WINFIELD GALLERY.

BOOM STAFF

## The *Boom* List

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

**H**unker down with *Earthquakes, Mudslides, Fires & Riots: California and Graphic Design, 1936–1986*, published by Metropolis Books. Designer and CalArts faculty member Louise Sandhaus edited this gorgeously illustrated, delicious compendium. The book features posters for Disneyland, Cream, and Herman Miller, the title sequence from *Taxi Driver*, Atari video games, environmental design from Deborah Sussman, and much more. And what of the title? We like Walker Art Center curator Andrew Blauvelt’s take in his blurb for the book: “While the book

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takes its title from the state's penchant for natural and man-made disasters, *Earthquakes, Mudslides, Fires & Riots* is more akin to the Golden State's famed agricultural production: a bountiful harvest of design staples, both indigenous and invasive, and other exotic and hybrid varieties."

**Visit "Sink or Swim: Designing for a Sea Change" at the Annenberg Space for Photography.** Curated by architectural writer and radio host Frances Anderton and featuring work by photographers Iwan Baan, Stephen Wilkes, Paula Bronstein, Jonas Bendiksen, and Monica Nouwens, "Sink or Swim" presents viewers with different possible design responses to changes brought on by climate change and sea level rise. It explores the human story of resilience, from adaptation for survival to ambitious infrastructure planning, in some of the richest and poorest of the world's coastal communities. Anderton collaborated with photographers experienced in capturing fragile built environments to determine locations, design projects, and communities around the world that serve as subjects for the commissioned works in the exhibition. Sea walls, floating schools, and temporary disaster-relief housing in disparate ecological and social contexts provide concrete starting points for considering questions about nature, culture, and design at the heart of "Sink or Swim," which runs through 3 May 2015.

**Celebrate the silver anniversary of sea lions on Pier 39 in San Francisco.** In January 1990 the first few sea lions began camping out on a pier in San Francisco's marina. Soon they overran the pier, and a noisy, smelly, delightful tourist attraction was born. Pier 39 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of their arrival with a celebration of all things sea lion January 16 through 19. Doesn't sound like your kind of thing? Consider, then, that the average sea lion life expectancy is twenty-five years, making this anniversary particularly poignant. Ignore the tourists and celebrate instead the passing of one generation to the next, and all the strange and serendipitous ways the border between city and nature blurs all around us.

**Survey mid-twentieth century Mexican art at the Crocker Art Museum.** The Sacramento museum explores how artists such as Diego Rivera, Gunther Gerzso, Carlos Merida,

Remedios Varo, and Alejandro Santiago synthesized the Mexican Revolution, pre-Columbian traditions, European artistic movements, and the muralist movement familiar to many Californians to create a readily identifiable style of Mexican art. "Arte Mexicano: Legacy of the Masters" gives some space to the artists' relationships to one another, and how they interpreted Mexico, modernity, and their individual identities through their art. Open through 1 February 2015.

**Read *Under Spring: Voices + Art + Los Angeles*, winner of the first California Historical Society Book Award.** Jeremy Rosenberg's new book tells the story of an overpass on the edge of downtown Los Angeles that, in recent years, sheltered a homeless encampment and acted as a buffer zone between two rival gangs. Then, in 2006, artists Lauren Bon and her Metabolic Studio transformed the underpass into a vibrantly creative space that served as a public square, ceremonial ground, art gallery, community garden, and musical instrument. Drawing accounts from sixty-six people, *Under Spring* uncovers the long history of the overpass and, in the process, tells the story of Los Angeles from an unexpected angle.

**See Warren Chang's paintings of Steinbeck country at the Monterey Museum of Art.** "Monterey Now" features local artist Warren Chang's warm realist paintings of biographical interiors and local fieldworkers in the Monterey County area. Chang's work is inspired by both John Steinbeck and Johannes Vermeer, influences which combine to make paintings that are subtle, very personal, and imbued with a deep sense of place. The exhibit is open through 6 April 2015.

**Reconsider "Winter."** Czesław Miłosz, the Polish writer, poet, and Nobel laureate, came to California to teach at University of California, Berkeley, in 1961, and considered the state often in his writing. His poem "Winter," written toward the end of his long life, begins, "The pungent smells of a California winter, / Grayness and rosiness, an almost transparent full moon. / I add logs to the fire, I drink and I ponder." It's a wonderful place to begin the season. We hope this California winter sees a return to the pungent rainy season we all love, as we join in pondering what comes next. **B**

*Accidentally on Purpose from Under Spring.* COURTESY OF METABOLIC STUDIO.

