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BOOM STAFF

The *Boom* List

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

Celebrate the **Panama-Pacific International Exposition**. Institutions across San Francisco are commemorating the centenary of the 1915 fair, and the California Historical Society is leading the way with two wonderful and complementary examples. At both the society's headquarters downtown and in the Palace of Fine Arts—the only building built for the fair that is still standing—visitors will have a chance to explore the grand palaces, foreign pavilions, and the amusement midway known as the Joy Zone as fairgoers would have seen them in 1915, and understand how

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this enormous undertaking wowed millions. The Palace of Fine Arts will also be home to iHangar, an interactive exhibit that aims to highlight today's innovation and global connections in the same way the fair did one hundred years ago. The enormous space will house public exhibits, community events, workshops and educational programming, and workspaces for entrepreneurs and investors. The message is clear: the spirit that sought to make San Francisco queen of the Pacific and the home of commerce and innovation in 1915 is alive and well in 2015. Visit www.californiahistoricalsociety.org for full exhibition details.

Immerse yourself in the world of 1915 San Francisco in two new books. Lee Bruno's *Panorama: Tales from San Francisco's 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition* and Laura A. Ackley's *San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915* are commemorative books for the centenary of the exposition, and each brings the fairgrounds back to life with photos and ephemera. In *Panorama*, Bruno includes mini biographies of some of the major participants as well as his personal family stories. *San Francisco's Jewel City* features Ackley's historical analysis and archival treasures from the California Historical Society. Both books are gorgeously illustrated and provide an excellent way to prepare for the year-long centennial celebration coming to the Bay Area.

Take a trip around the Pacific at the Oakland Museum of California. *Pacific Worlds* turns the familiar idea of California as the western frontier on its head, examining the deep and rich history of this region's interactions with the Pacific, and exploring the on-going connections and intersecting experiences of Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians, along with Filipinos, Native Californians, and American collectors, colonists, and audiences. Using rarely seen objects from the Pacific Islands, interactive displays, contemporary artwork and the voices of California's Pacific Islander community, the exhibit presents Californian identity as tied to and shaped by the histories, peoples, and geography of the Pacific. *Pacific Worlds* opens at the Oakland Museum of California on 30 May 2015.

Consider California Dreaming: An International Portrait of Southern California at one of its two stops in the Golden State. Over nine hundred pieces were submitted to this traveling exhibition, which opened in the fall of 2014 in Palazzo della Provincia di Frosinone in Italy. In the end, fifty were chosen, and together they poke and prod at the idea of the California dream. Is it still alive and thriving, or has the past half-century of population growth and development altered the romantic notion of the Southern California lifestyle forever? With work from artists around the world, a variety of perspectives are included. To round things out, five additional works were chosen from permanent and private collections by the exhibition's jurors to broaden and deepen this conversation on the evolving significance of Southern California. The exhibition is on view at the Oceanside Museum of Art through 29 March 2015, and after that at the Riverside Art Museum from 21 April 2015 through 5 July 2015.

Admire the views from the top of the California Tower in San Diego's Balboa Park. The magnificently ornate California Building was the first stop for many visitors to the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Today, the building houses the Museum of Man, but its tower has been off-limits to the public since 1935. Now, a major fundraising effort is underway to open the tower for small, guided tours each day by 1 January 2015—just in time for the exposition's centenary. If a fear of heights keeps you from making the trip yourself, the museum plans to have a large-screen TV connected to remote-controlled cameras at the top of the tower, to share the view with earth-bound visitors.

Be part of a *Lightswarm* at the Yerba Buena Center. The facade of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts has been taken over by sound-sensing "spiders"—light modules made from 3D printed components, addressable LED strips, and laser-cut skins made out of recyclable PET plastic and synthetic paper—to create *Lightswarm*, a dynamic light show on view until October 2016. The 430 individual light modules use sensors that gather sound from inside the Yerba Buena Center and the surrounding gardens and streetscape. Data from these sensors determine the color and direction of *Lightswarm's* light, creating patterns that resemble a perpetually swarming flock of birds, of which you could be one. **B**



The California Tower in San Diego's Balboa Park. COURTESY SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF MAN.