



Public Transit Areas #46 by Anthony Hernandez. COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

BOOM STAFF

The *Boom* List

What to do, see, and read in California

Take a spin around the new San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. After a three-year closure and thanks to a new ten-story addition, San Francisco's modern art museum reopened in May nearly three times bigger than it was. In his review for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, architecture critic John King sees the new building "through many lenses—as a symbol of wealth, or a manifestation of the tech boom, or the final step in this part of town's half-century transition from Skid Row to a posh address." If you're nearby, stop by and see what you think. While you're there, have a look at the Anthony Hernandez retrospective, which runs from September 24 through the end of the year. The exhibit covers Hernandez's forty-five years of photography—street, landscape, and abstract photography—and it includes

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several pieces from his acclaimed series *Landscapes for the Homeless*, completed in 1991.

Don't get stuck in Folsom Prison, but visit the Folsom Prison Museum. If you're headed up Interstate 80 or Interstate 50 from Sacramento toward Reno or South Lake Tahoe, you're not far from Folsom. Perhaps after a visit to the Folsom City Zoo, grab \$2.00 in cash and head through the quaint town to the Folsom Prison Museum. The museum chronicles the history of the prison and houses a trove of photographs, artifacts, and Johnny Cash memorabilia from his famous trip there. This museum is only one of two operating prison museums in California and is run by the Retired Correctional Peace Officers Association, which donates the profits to The American Cancer Society, Fisher House, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Visit Skid Row and the Los Angeles Poverty Department. When the Los Angeles Poverty Department was founded in 1985 by director-performer-activist John Malpede, it was the first performance group in the nation made up of primarily homeless people. Over the course of more than thirty years, the LAPD has used theater and the arts to draw attention to a constellation of challenges that vex Skid Row and its thousands of inhabitants: displacement and gentrification, drug policy reform, mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and, of course, homelessness. In 2015, the LAPD founded the Skid Row museum and archive, located at 440 S. Broadway, and the group hosts a number of events throughout the year. Check the LAPD's website at lapovertydept.org for upcoming exhibits and performances.

Read Hadar Aviram's *Cheap on Crime*. Published last year by University of California Press, *Cheap on Crime: Recession-Era Politics and the Transformation of American Punishment*

looks at how the financial crisis that began in 2008 helped to jumpstart our current era of prison reform. Aviram draws on years of archival and journalistic research and builds on social history and economics literature to show the impact of recession-era discourse on the death penalty, the war on drugs, incarceration practices, prison health care, and other aspects of the American correctional landscape. Should California base its prison policies on budget concerns? However you answer that question, Aviram argues that that is what we have done.

Take a different boat to Alcatraz. This summer, Alcatraz comes to Southern California. Well, sort of. Long Beach's *Queen Mary* hosts two new exhibits on the former federal island prison: "Alcatraz: Life on the Rock" and "Alcatraz: The Last Day." The first exhibits details the history of the prison, including its infamous inmates, as well as detailed models of the prison and its cells. The second is a photographic journey through the last day of Alcatraz as captured through the lens of California-based photographer Leigh Wiener. These photographs were discovered by Wiener's son and are part of a larger collection of never-before-published works by the photographer. Your ticket also includes admission to tour the rest of the *Queen Mary* and explore the fascinating history of the ship.

See *Tomorrow!* today. If you are looking for a wonderfully funny and weird variety show late on a Saturday night, you could do worse than heading to Hollywood's Steve Allen Theater. *Tomorrow!* with Ron Lynch, a variety show in its eleventh year, runs every Saturday night at 11:55 p.m. The show has featured comedians such as Emo Phillips, Karen Kilgariff, and Steve Agee, as well as musical acts and magicians. The *LA Weekly* has said the anarchic night out is "guaranteed to be one of your weirdest encounters with the LA entertainment scene," and who are we to argue? **B**

Façade of the new San Francisco Museum of Modern Art extension.

