

805 LIVING

**GIVE
THANKS
GIVE
BACK**

Pulse

TRACKING THE BEAT OF THE 805



Before creating his full-size sculptures in tribute to the victims of last year's mass shooting at Thousand Oaks' Borderline Bar & Grill, Ali Alinejad perfected his designs with these miniature prototypes.

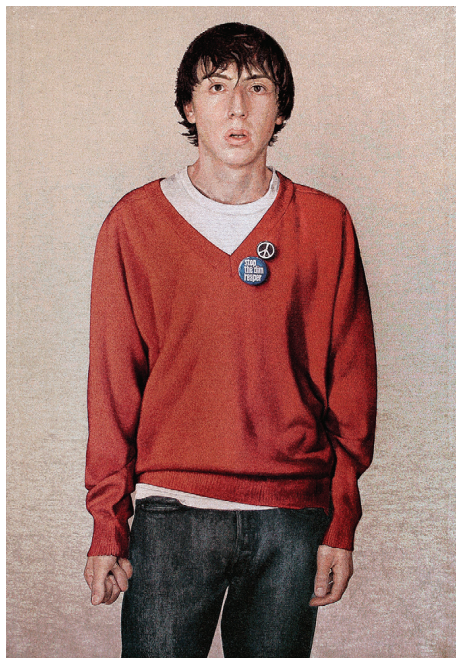
A SCULPTOR'S TRIBUTE

The grieving process continues for the 12 people who lost their lives in the mass shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks on November 7, 2018. "There was so much emotion and so much grief in this community after this happened, people didn't have a place to go," says Thousand Oaks-based sculptor Ali Alinejad. "Creating that place is what inspired me," he says of the ceramic memorials he sculpted to honor each of the victims.

With the support of the community, Alinejad built an 8- to 12-foot totem for each victim, stacking the letters

of their first names, which he sculpted from clay, and inscribing special memories on the back. The colorful, joyful sculptures are currently displayed throughout Alinejad's neighborhood, which is also home to his business, **Clay Studio + Gallery** (claystudioandgallery.com). He hopes to find a permanent home for the sculptures and to create a memorial with benches that can be used as a site for contemplation. For more information, visit the project's GoFundMe page: gofundme.com/f/sculpture-memorial-for-the-12-victims-at-borderline.

—Leslie Dinaberg



Ojai artist John Nava's *Stop the Dim Reaper* (left) and *Regime Change Begins at Home* are on display as part of the California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks *Empathy: Beneath the Surface* exhibit.

DEEP CONNECTIONS

With the recent opening of the exhibit *Empathy: Beneath the Surface*, the **California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks** (cmato.org) has gone beyond just showcasing paintings in its galleries. It has issued “a call to connect with each other through the fundamental component of community—understanding and recognizing the thoughts or needs of another,” says senior curator Lynn Farrand.

The seven artists in the show come from as far as South Africa (Capetown native Simphiwe Ndzube) and as close as Ojai (resident John Nava), and their work ranges from photography, multimedia installation, and film to painting, sculpture, and tapestry design. However, all engage the universal themes of loss, resilience, and hope. “They project different situations of the human condition,” says Farrand. “I hope that at least one will resonate on a deeper level.”

Recognizing that the year anniversary of the Woolsey wildfire and the mass shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill may be painful for the community at large, she adds, “We wanted to give them something meaningful during a difficult time.” The exhibit is on view through February 16, 2020.

—Joan Tapper

ACTIVE SHOPPING

“Live more, worry less.” That’s the guiding principle expressed by a pink neon sign at **Bonibi** (bonibi.com), a recently opened athleisure boutique in Westlake Village. The unique concept store wholly embraces the sentiment: Aside from an impressive high-end selection of athletic shoes by Vionic, P.E Nation, On-Running, New Balance, Clarks, Karhu, and Saucony as well as fashion-forward activewear by Alo Yoga and Koral, the shop opens up to stunning views of Westlake Lake, making it the perfect meeting spot for

a steaming mug of Stumptown Coffee, served at the on-site coffee bar. But the perks don’t end there: An Aetrex Albert foot scanner measures patrons for the perfect arch support in 30 seconds with its 360-degree cameras; a DJ spins tunes on most Sundays; and yoga classes take place on the back lawn on select weekends.

—Heidi Dvorak



ROSES IN NOVEMBER

During the fall, roses in warm earthy colors are in high demand. Among the newest additions to this palette are Macchiato roses. The color of blushing cheeks, these beauties are available locally at **Florabundance** (florabundance.com), a wholesale flower supplier in Carpinteria.



“Growers in the flower world are working on new varieties all the time,” says Florabundance buyer Debbie Kline, who suggests a few options to consider in an arrangement of Macchiato roses for the Thanksgiving table. “I personally like to see the brown tones mixed with burgundies and even blushes or peach; natural elements with texture always bring interest, too, like bronze Amaranthus, burgundy Scabiosa, and chocolate lace flowers.

“The process for creating new, natural varieties is actually quite fascinating,” Kline says, “and anticipating future trends is tricky. [Growers] also work on producing new colors and varieties that are stronger and more productive to grow.” ♦ —L.D.