

Datebook: Jimmie Durham's long-awaited U.S. retrospective, masculine and feminine and the nature of translation

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n American artist has a rare homecoming. A group show that explores the nature of gender and sexuality. And a screening of a film that shows a Los Angeles that is now history. Plus: Art that examines the act translation, the design of an organic architect and Chinese ceramics. Here are eight events to check out in the coming week:

Jimmie Durham, "At the Center of the World," at the Hammer Museum. For the last 20 years, Durham, who was born in Arkansas, and who came of age as an artist in New York's downtown scene in the 1980s, has chosen to show primarily outside the United States. (The artist is of Cherokee descent.) This makes his first North American retrospective, and his first major U.S. exhibition since 1995, all the more special. Gathering his works from the 1970s to the present. This includes freestanding assemblages and wall sculptures, both figurative and abstract, that combine natural and discarded elements to riff on classical architecture, the nature of portraiture and colonization. Put this at the top of your art-seeing list. And while you're there, don't miss the exhibition featuring drawings by French artist Jean Dubuffet, a figure who turned the graffiti-like gesture into high art. Opens Sunday and runs through May 7. 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood, Los Angeles,

hammer.ucla.edu.

"Masculine — Feminine," at the Beall Center for Art + Technology. A group show that gathers the works of 12 artists, including Cassils, Micol Hebron, Julie Heffernan and Danial Nord, explores issues of gender and sexuality — sometimes playing with the malleability of these identifiers, at other times eliminating them completely. *Opens Saturday at 2 p.m. and runs through May 13. UC Irvine, 712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, beallcenter.uci.edu*.



"Sleeper," 2017, by Danial Nord, on view at the Beall Center for Art + Technology in Irvine. (Danial Nord)