

ARTICLES

Best of 2017: Our Top 10 Los Angeles Art Shows

This year Los Angeles showcased especially diverse and robust exhibitions, thanks in part to an enormous initiative around Latin American and Latino art.



Hyperallergic December 20, 2017

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John Hulsey and Johanna Breiding: break down, re source at the Los Angeles Contemporary Archive

December 1, 2017–January 6, 2018



John Hulsey, *The Land Under Iron* (DTLA), 2017, HD video still. Image courtesy of the artist.

With *break down, re source*, two artists — John Hulsey and Johanna Breiding — both reflect upon geography and land use in the American West and the colonizing desires that have historically driven speculation and development.

Hulsey’s video installation “The Land Under Iron” depicts a highway sign with repurposed text that interrupts a site of construction in Downtown Los Angeles and a former site of naval conquest at San Pedro’s Fort MacArthur. Breiding’s photograph “End of the Line” shows a rubbing of a historical marker in the town of Keeler, which figured in the California Water Wars and the history of analogue photography. Her sensual use of *frottage* speaks volumes: in a city experiencing an urgent housing and homelessness crisis — in which the art world has been implicated — *break down, re source* revisits the narratives and scrutinizes the underlying desires that have scarred and shaped this stolen land. —HNK