



5 Free Art Shows to See in L.A. This Week

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017 AT 6:33 A.M.

BY CATHERINE WAGLEY

This week, valley fever haunts the cast of a film, a painter stains the carpet and an artist learns to backflip.

Open-ended screw

Judith Bernstein's exhibition at the Box is titled after the first drawing you see upon entering the space: "Cock in the Box." It shows a cartoonish cock emerging from a red, white and blue box. "America's Number 1 Toy," the artist scrawled across this drawing when she made it in 1966. Cocks, cunts and screws have been Bernstein's subject matter for half a century, and they appear in this exhibition in all their irreverent glory: Eight screws appear to be spinning in a charcoal-on-paper drawing from 1968. But it is the abstractions that steal this show, their open-endedness maybe fuller and richer because it's in contrast to Bernstein's explicitness. One big circular canvas has an imperfect black circle at its center — *Circle Screw* this is called, though it's screwishness is inexplicit. On the opposite wall hang the *Anthuriums*, paintings made in the 1980s and named after the flower that they vaguely resemble. Each differently colored composition combines round shapes with angles, and could be a poetically blurry detail of a fabulously clad, fleshy limb captured in motion.

805 Traction Ave., downtown; through March 18. (213) 625-1747, theboxla.com.

