

Ursula



REBECCA MORRIS

The L.A. - based painter's work explores many of the mechanisms of abstraction - stroke, gesture, gris, map, patterning - along with suggestions of textile and ceramics.

Ideal day in the city

The day would be spent in my studio in Lincoln Heights. I need daylight to work, so I'd get there early. For lunch, I'd go to Dino's, across the street, which is best known for its chicken and burgers. City workers, the police and nearby USC Medical Center employees, as well as people from the neighborhood, all frequent the place. I'd get the BLT with avocado, no mayo. In the evening, I'd attend the concert series at Zipper Hall, which focuses on contemporary music; recent seasons have included works by Julius Eastman, Meredith Monk and Steve Reich. Afterwards, I'd want to extend my euphoric concert energy with conversation over dinner. Given the late hour, dinner at the Pacific Dining Car (a classy, old-school, white-table-cloth, white-rose-in-a-silver-vase, 24-hour steak restaurant) would be the perfect ending to the day.

Favorite iconic attraction to show visitors

I love taking people to El Matador State Beach. It fully communicates the aching beauty of California. Being there at "golden hour" is sublime.

Favorite under-the-radar attraction

The **Pasadena City College flea market** takes place on the first Sunday of every month, and it's free. The range of items and vendors is vast and inspiring.

Attraction to avoid

The 405.

Favorite local work of art

I don't like picking favorites, but I will say that I am a big fan of the iconic 1984 Olympic Freeway Murals. The artist, Jim Morphesis, one of the subjects, was a fellow teaching colleague for many years, and his portrait faces a matching tribute to L.A. artist Lita Albuquerque. I love that these works were designed to welcome people to L.A. for the games.

Favorite local non-art museum

The Gem and Mineral Hall at the Natural History Museum is totally bonkers. The specimens themselves are breathtaking, and I love the displays and exhibition designs.

Favorite escape from the city

The central coast: Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay. I love this part of California: the rolling green hills, the beaches and the relaxed attitude. It's heaven. I got married in Cayucos and have many warm feelings in this area.