

# Letter From the Editor

This issue marks two years of *Carla*. In this time, as you've gotten to know *Carla* and welcomed (her/us) into your community, I have been overwhelmed by the level of support and the dedication of our readers. Since we published our first issue in print in April 2015, we have doubled our print run, expanded our free distribution throughout California, and written about 578 artists and 204 galleries. So first, I want to offer you a profound thank you for rallying for us and encouraging us to continue to foster critical discourse in the Los Angeles art community. We wouldn't be here today without all of you.

To commemorate this important milestone, we've asked artist, designer, and educator, Ed Fella, to design a unique cover for the issue in his signature expressive typographic style. His artwork is a celebration of *Carla's* story where we have come and where we have yet to go.

This issue's contents are eclectic. Travis Diehl's essay traces our relationship with the singular narrative of Westward expansion via Kanye West and the HBO show *Westworld*, while Thomas Duncan discusses the infamous Instagram account of Richard Hawkins. Catherine Wagley and Eliza Swann focus on alternative structures for art with considerations of artist Alice Könitz and Penny Slinger. This issue also marks the conclusion of the first round of "Exquisite L.A.",

a year-long artist portrait series by Claressinka Anderson and Joe Pugliese. Later in the issue, we present a review of the Jason Rhoades exhibition alongside a letter to the editor about the same exhibition. By presenting these two texts side by side, I hope to convey that critical dialogue is a progression. It's subjective. It's a conversation.

While the printed page indeed holds a certain permanence, a critical review as I see it is a presentation of an individual viewpoint. There is no finite conclusion—only space for dialogue and communion with ideas. We hope to continue this conversation with you. Please send your thoughts on current exhibitions, or ones that we've written about to [office@contemporaryartreview.la](mailto:office@contemporaryartreview.la), and we will continue to publish selected Letters to the Editor.

We hope we've sparked a few conversations for you and yours over the last two years. We look forward to many more!

Lindsay Preston Zappas  
Founder and Editor-in-Chief