

LAWEEKLY

5 FREE ART SHOWS YOU SHOULD SEE IN L.A. THIS WEEK

By Catherine Wagley

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Lava lamp modernism

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright built his Ennis House in Los Feliz in 1924, taking inspiration from Mayan reliefs. It sits like an imposing fortress with Griffith Park behind it and so, even when it's been vacant or in disrepair, it's fascinated moviemakers and culture producers. For his show at Thomas Duncan Gallery, Emanuel Röhss took the Ennis House as his subject, reproducing some of its flourishes and ornaments. The highlight of his show, called "Invitation to Love," are resin columns made from molds modeled on Ennis House designs. In the upstairs gallery, the columns are lit with spotlights so they glow red and orange. They also stand in front of a garish orange-red-and-black painting, which makes being in the room feel like being in a lava lamp. It's more overtly, knowingly theatrical than Frank Lloyd Wright's version of tastefulness. But it's still all based on iconic modern design.

6109 Melrose Ave., Hollywood; through Feb. 26. (310) 494-1177, thomasduncangallery.com.