

Hoffman Donahue

rhonda saboff / (parker pine): *GAI iWant*
Curated by Sula Bermudez-Silverman
April 25 – May 23, 2026
Los Angeles

rhonda saboff / parker pine is a sculptor / assemblage artist based in Hollywood CA working primarily with found objects.

She was born July 6, 1948 in Hollywood California.

Her father was a junkman (scrap metal dealer) from Brooklyn which informs her work.

Her artistic beginnings were also based in music and dance.

She danced with Frank Zappa and THE MOTHERS OF INVENTION in 1967–68.

In 1971 she was one of the first students to study Percussion at the experimental Inner City Cultural Arts Academy in South Central LA

In '72 she went on to study drumming with Elvis Presley's drummer at the Dick Grove Academy of Music in the 'Valley'.

1982 she studied art at Otis Institute of Art, then was protégé to Genevieve Blons, Artist/Architect / Paris, France.

In 1984 she began rehearsing with Marvin Gaye for his upcoming all girl back-up band until he was tragically shot and killed by his father, ending his career.

She was Owner/Director of the underground DiRT gallery (which consisted of 5 small rooms in the Cambell Building; an old Hotel built in 1934 on the corner of Santa Monica Blvd / Fairfax West Hollywood from 1995-2009 exhibiting known and unknown artists.

rhonda saboff/ (parker pine) describes herself as a 'field artist'. She learned in the field, the field being the junkyard, where materials arrive already marked by use, damage and time. This exhibition brings together works made between 1987 and the present, tracing a practice that has remained committed to that way of learning and working.

The work is receptive rather than planned. Forms emerge from the material itself, a broken slat already a witch's finger, a knot already a face, but also from the world pressing in: cultural figures, remembered images, the planes that pass overhead on their way to and from the Burbank airport.

Growing up with a father who worked as a junk man, rhonda developed an early sensitivity to what gets discarded and what remains. Scraps, leftovers and splinters are not secondary materials in this work, they are the foundation.

Much of the wood used throughout the exhibition comes from demolished homes in Hollywood, collected over the past forty years. Some of these structures were lost to fire, others to redevelopment. In some cases, the

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materials come from houses the artist herself once lived in. These histories remain embedded in the surfaces and structures of the work, not as narrative, but as residue.

My mother always jokes that it took “a village (people)” to raise me. Two of those village people were my godmothers, Gai and Rhonda. Together for 52 years, they formed an environment that shaped my early understanding of what it means to make something from what is already there. After Gai passed away unexpectedly in March 2025, I asked Rhonda if she would consider doing a solo show of her work. An idea I’d had for a while, but one that presented itself as a way to propel grief into another layer.

For Gai

– Sula Bermudez-Silverman

rhonda saboff / (parker pine) was born July 6, 1948 in Hollywood, CA. She trained as a percussionist at Inner City Cultural Arts Academy and Dick Grove Academy of Music. Solo exhibitions include Border Grill, Los Angeles (1988) and Double Rocking G Gallery, Los Angeles (1988). Selected group exhibitions include Track 16, Downtown Los Angeles (2020); Track 16, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica (2002); Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica (2002, 1999); Holland Tunnel Gallery, Williamsburg (2001); New Image Art, West Hollywood (2001); Gallery 825, West Hollywood (2000); and POST, Los Angeles (1997). From 1995 to 2009, she was the founder and director of DiRT Gallery in Hollywood, CA.

Sula Bermudez-Silverman received her BA in Studio Art from Bard College and her MFA in Sculpture from the Yale School of Art in 2018. Solo exhibitions include Hannah Hoffman, Los Angeles (2025); Josh Lilley, London (2023); Matthew Brown, Los Angeles (2023); Micki Meng, San Francisco (2022); Murmurs, Los Angeles (2021); California African American Museum, Los Angeles (2020); University of Texas at Austin, Austin (2018); and Project Row Houses, Houston (2015). She has also exhibited at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Jewish Museum, New York; UC Irvine Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, Irvine; and Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven.

Bermudez-Silverman’s work is included in the collections of Bunker Art Space, West Palm Beach, FL; California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Miami, FL; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT.

Bermudez-Silverman is currently included in the 2026 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, NY, on view through August 2026.