

Welcome to Los Angeles

*Monday, November 21st - Wednesday, November 23rd*

I spent a busy couple of weeks in Los Angeles. I checked out a large amount of art, so that's going to be the majority of pictures but I also managed to take my scooter down the beach for Thanksgiving and eat and drink my way through Atwater Village.



*Bridge over LA River with bonus: water!*

Pretty much every activity I'm going to talk about was recommended by my good friend and prior LA resident Anne Elisabeth. This includes where I stayed, which is the fun little neighborhood of Atwater Village.



*LA River near Atwater Village*

The first night there I just walked around, finding my way over to the river, flowing strongly from the previous days rain. I eventually wandered up to one of the many bars and restaurants in the area. In the time I was there I did everything from hang out with the hipsters in the Paul Bunyan themed Bigfoot Lodge to have a great evening in the friendly crowd at The Griffin. At one restaurant I watched a man wearing sunglasses in the dark interior cleverly figure out he could use his cell phone camera to read the menu, and I spent a rainy afternoon in one of my favorite spots, Village Tavern, watching the Buckeyes squeak out a win against Michigan. My lodging had no kitchen, so I was back to every dinner out on the town and I pretty much ate my way through the area.

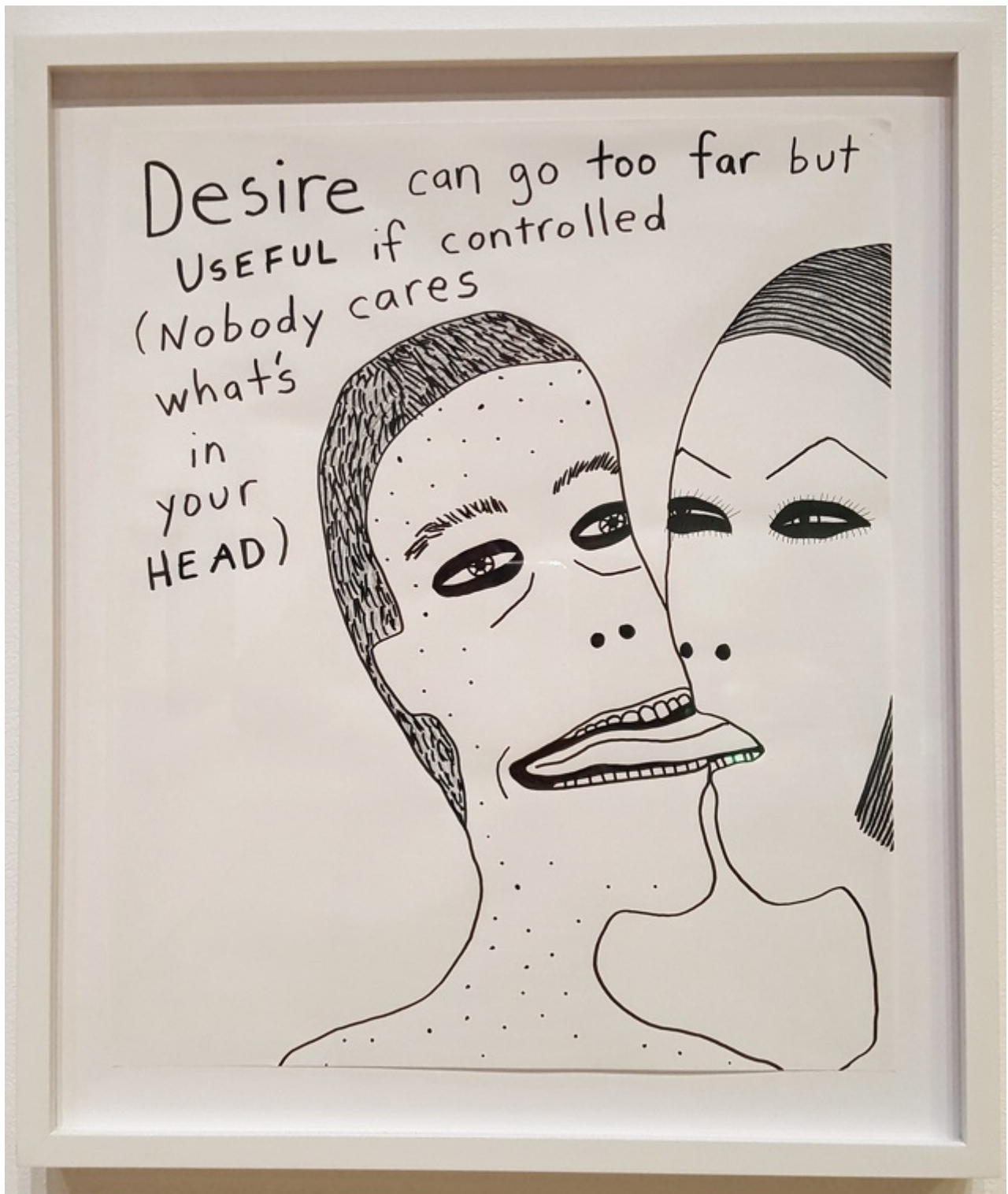
I let myself have one evening to explore the area and then the next day was off to a show I was super excited about: the Armory Center for the Arts had put together a show of artists

who spent some time reading Octavia E. Butler's papers at the nearby Huntington Library and then created work based on her writings and her life. I'm a huge Butler fan and so skipped merrily through the doors, past the bored but fortunately easily amused attendant, and took a look at *Radio Imagination: Artists in the Archive of Octavia E. Butler*.

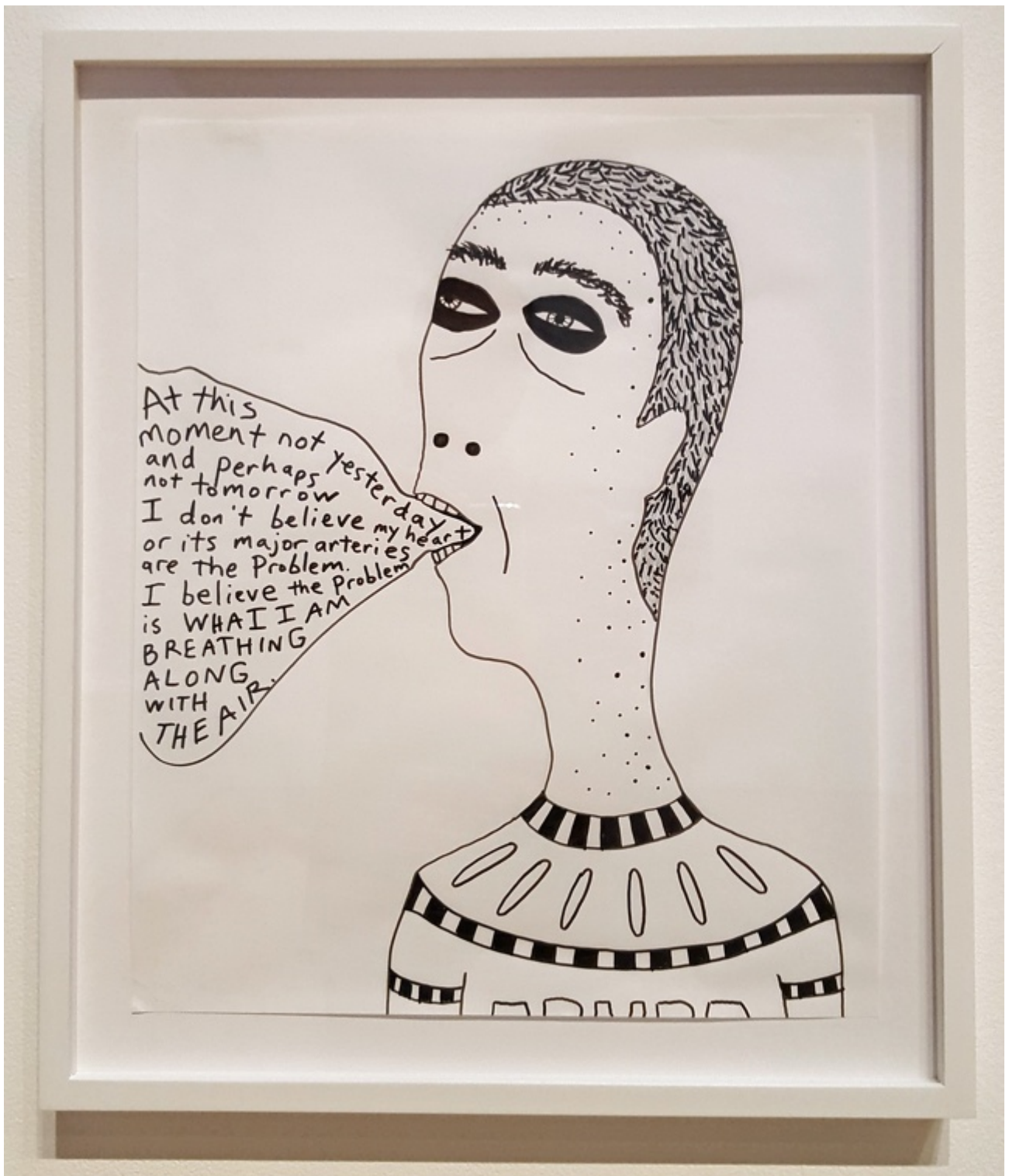


*"and it was a natural extension of my dreaming" by Lauren Halsey, 2016.*





Untitled from "Commonplace Drawings" by Laylah Ali.



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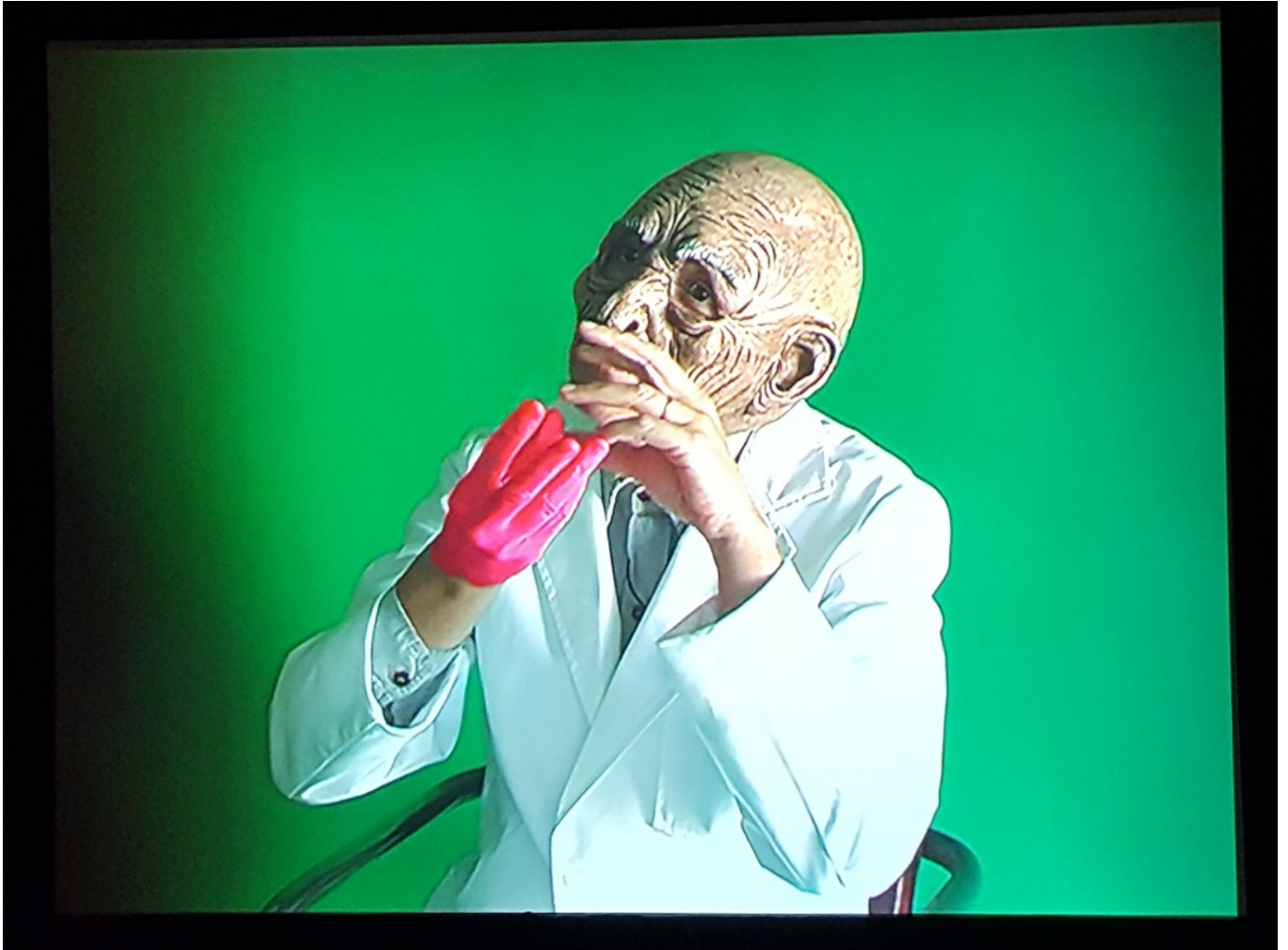
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The Butler show was lots of fun, I always enjoy seeing what other folks take from her works. Upstairs was a different show, this one featuring works by Harry Dodge, a lot of which was discussing similar themes. Great pairing.



*"Black Hole with Meaties" in "The Inner Reality of Ultra-Intelligent Life" by Harry Dodge.*





*Still from a video by Harry Dodge.*

The video was lots of fun and a good reminder that, statistically speaking, humans are doomed.

The next day I headed out to see “Dark Visions: Mid-Century Macabre” an exhibit at the Norton Simon Museum. The exhibit was interesting but small and the rest of the museum was full of way more art than I expected.



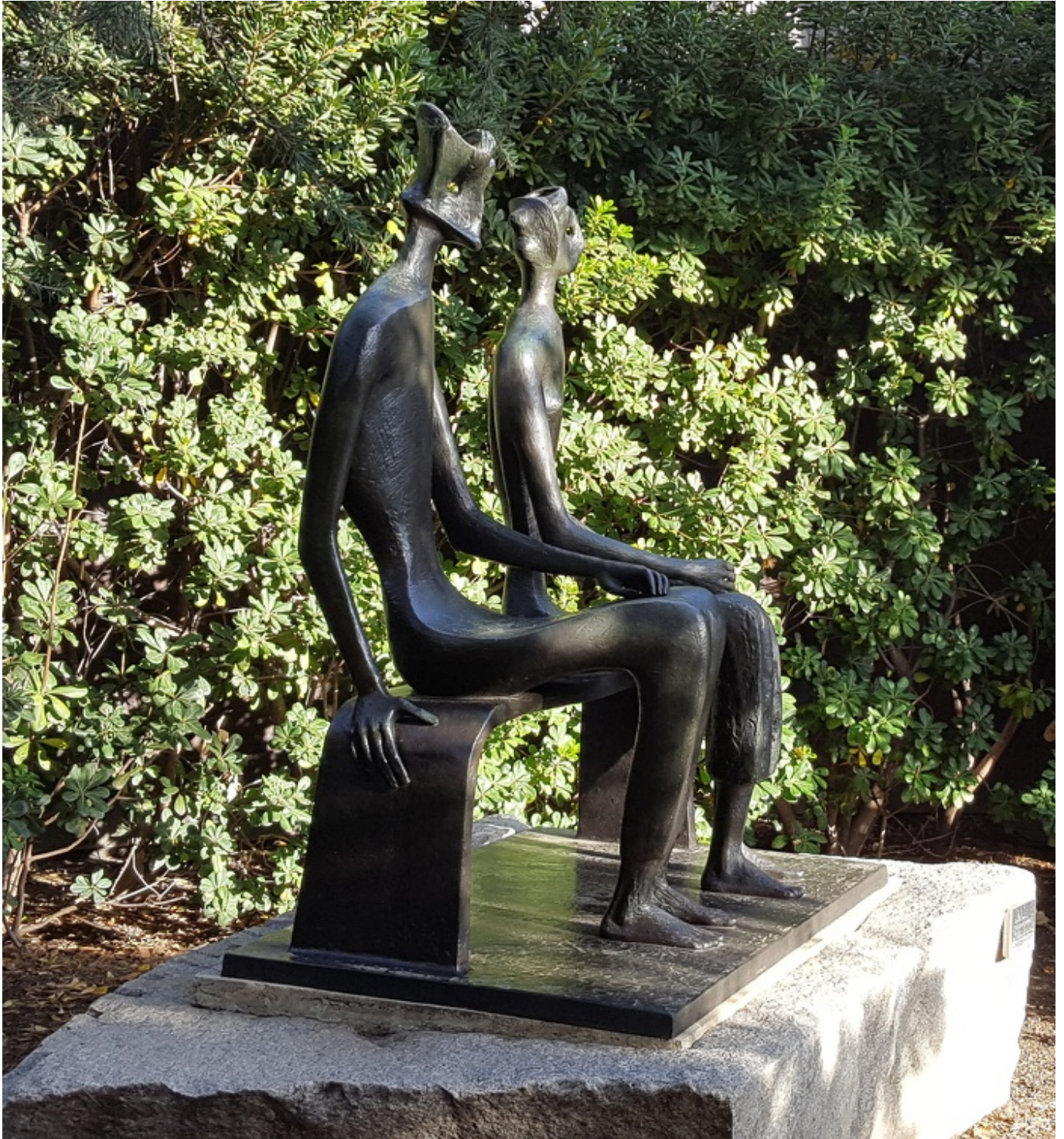
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*"Studies in Desperation: Now the Act is Consummated" by Connor Everts. Part of the "Dark Visions: Mid-Century Macabre" show.*



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*"King and Queen" by Henry Moore. One of my favorites although I only saw part of the sculpture garden as the recent rains had closed a chunk of it.*

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One of the temporary shows was a bunch of Picasso lithographs. Reading about and then seeing many examples of how he transformed his prints from one to another was a lot of fun.





*"Paloma and Her Doll, White Background" by Picasso, December 14th, 1952.*

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*"Paloma and Her Doll on Black Background" by Picasso, December 14th, 1952.*





*"David and Bathsheba (after Lucas Cranach the Elder)" by Picasso, March 30th, 1947.*





*"David and Bathsheba (after Lucas Cranach the Elder)" by Picasso, May 29th, 1949.*

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*"Assembly of Sea Forms" by Barbara Hepworth.*

A few bits of sculpture tucked away!



*Three Angel Musicians from the Pisan School, ~1350 - 1400 AD.*





*"The Pitch Pine Room" by Edouard Vuillard.*

I kept coming back to this painting.



*Flower Tree from the parking lot, like they do here in Southern California.*

I headed home as the sun set, weaving through the heavy rush hour traffic and visiting whichever restaurant or bar I explored that night (probably the not very good wood fired pizza. Fun bar, though). The next day was Thanksgiving, which means the next post will start with a day at the beach!