

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



The Best Free L.A. Art Parties This Week

Shana Nys Dambrot



Douglas Gordon: Self-Portrait of You + Me, after the Factory, 2007.
Courtesy of Gagosian Gallery

Thursday, July 9: “Theories on Forgetting” at Gagosian

It’s something of an art world tradition that in July and August, most galleries give themselves over to the trope of the “big summer group show.” Often organized thematically, one tends to see eclectic surveys with loose-fitting topics like sex or the nude, surf or car culture, fashion, beauty or etc. It’s usually breezy, cheeky, and, well, fun. It’s summer after all. In that sense, Gagosian’s contribution, “Theories on Forgetting,” is a bit on the dark side. Assembling major works by some 18 contemporary artists, the forgetting to which the title refers is not of the lazy, sunswept, margarita variety. Instead is about our society’s collective, and slightly unsettling, practice of dismissing the origins of our symbols and assumptions, what the description calls “source amnesia: strange relics and personal figments.” Artists like Piero Golia, Douglas Gordon, the late Ana Mendieta, Sterling Ruby, Ed Ruscha, Taryn Simon and Jonas Wood are known for harvesting, mulching and Frankensteining iconography of the past into deliberately not-quite-new paintings, sculptures, videos, and photography that proudly display the scars of this conceptual surgery. Piero Golia’s *On Record* (Three days conversation on general matters) — a 16-hour recorded conversation whose transcripts are collected in a unique artist book — will be shown for the first time and read at the opening.