

Street Artist Jules Muck Tours Us Around Los Angeles' Best Outdoor Gallery

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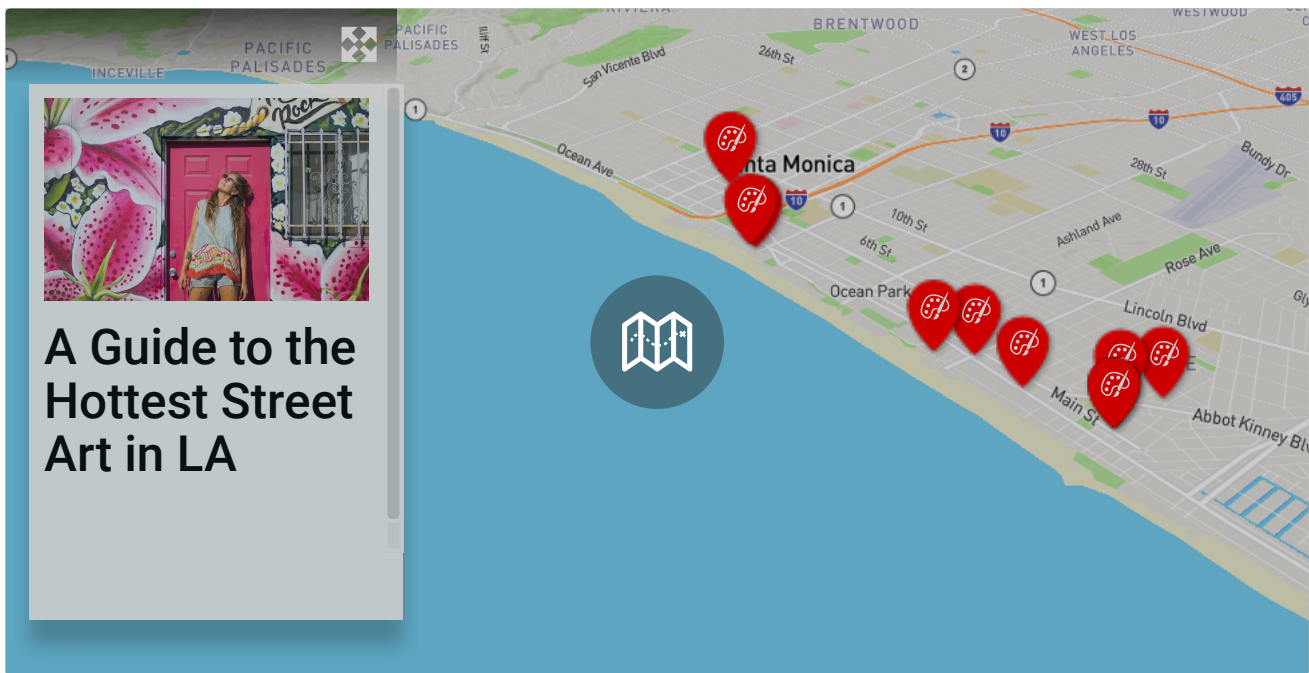
The Salty Shutters



We partnered with ETC Hotels (Hotel Casa del Mar and Shutters on the Beach) to bring you a self-guided walking tour of LA's hottest street artist's outdoor gallery—the streets of Venice Beach. Learn more at <https://www.hotelcasadelmar.com/>. 

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People visit Los Angeles for a myriad of reasons, but one that often stands above all others is the gritty glamor of the city's art scene. Indoor galleries and museums suffice, sure, but to get to the real heart of the city, your best bet is to check out LA's most distinctive show: Jules Muck's murals along the streets of Venice Beach, which is just a stone's throw away from Shutters on the Beach or Hotel Casa del Mar in nearby Santa Monica. For a seriously unique experience in a city that's full of them, the hotels can even arrange a private tour with her. Which is just what we did.



On the day we meet, Muck arrives with a mug of coffee from home, her fingers seemingly permanently stained with color, limbs spotted with tattoos. There's an openness and kind of urchin charm to her that, coupled with her formidable gifts, has seen her go from living in her car on Electric Ave ten years ago to becoming a legitimate name in the broader art world. Luckily for all visitors to LA, seeing some of Muck's most celebrated pieces requires nothing more than an hour of your time, a good pair of walking shoes, and a little know-where. Thankfully, she's here to help us with the latter.



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1. Hotel Casa del Mar

The tour's jumping-off point is Hotel Casa del Mar. The luxurious hotel might seem an unlikely home for Muck's art, but they've enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration, from temporary murals to the current—and frequently stolen—menus. Discover her work in the Wine Bar and then get the afternoon going with a glass or two in the breezy lobby overlooking the ocean. Then hop in a cab a short distance to begin the walking part of the tour.



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2. Electric Ave & Santa Clara - *Two Ladies*

The first stop is around the corner from Muck's first "home" on Electric Ave (a car she would end up living in for six months), and where she would paint massive canvases on the sidewalk all night. Unlike her more famous 'Muck Green' murals, this piece is her only one on the tour in black and white—the red flowers added more recently.



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3. Broadway & 5TH - *Frida*

A few blocks away is her famous Frida Kahlo portrait, a serene meditation on the artist, staring out from the flat façade of a rollaway garage. It's a fan favorite, as evidenced by the thousands of Instagram users who have featured it.



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4. Westminster & Alhambra Ct - *(A Small Piece Of) The Bunny Extravaganza*

Heading toward the ocean down Westminster remains the best place to spot one of the few remaining survivors of her 'Bunny Extravaganza' period, wherein fornicating bunnies sprung up all over Venice walls, dumpsters, and volunteered vans. She was told they were too risqué for the street murals, so instead Muck went all in and responded with trademark humor.



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5. Horizon Ave & Main St - *The House & Freedumb Wall*

Impossible to miss with its two story, emerald green puppy, the house is one of Muck's most well known pieces. What most people don't realize is that its whimsy hides its function as a memorial—which many of her works turn out to be. 'Tula' the puppy was Jules' constant companion in her early days in LA.



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A short stroll down Main takes you to another one of her breakthrough murals—the 'Freedumb Wall', a series of portraits of iconic entertainers (music is a recurrent theme in her work); Morrison, Cobain, Monroe, Vicious, and Joplin all captured in her trademark green.



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6. Pacific Ave & Thornton Ct - *Self-portrait*

As she began to receive public acclaim and the corresponding backlash that can come with that, this rare self-portrait depicts Muck weathering the storm.



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7. Pacific Ave & Rose Ct - *Gloria Steinem, Angela Davis & Lilies*

Grouped along an inconspicuous stretch of Pacific is a couplet of portraits. Muck laughs as she explains that she immortalized feminist icons here because the building is a “notorious bachelor pad.” A few doors down, another important woman in her life is acknowledged in ‘Lilies’—she painted it for her mother on Mother’s Day. It’s one of the only remaining street examples from her flower period.



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8. Navy Ct & Speedway – *Muck Alley*

Muck Alley is the best place to see a wide array of Muck’s work in one setting, from the evolving mural of faces in her signature green—including the newest, painted the day before our tour—to the two larger memorials honoring friends and locals. Giving back to the community that embraced her is a large motivation for Muck and the memorials are great examples of this, often painted *with* the friends or family of the subject. The opposite wall showcases a tonal and subject shift: brightly colored koi, water birds, and eyes stare out to regard her other creations.

The work is as captivating and energetic as the artist herself.



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To truly experience life #BeyondtheBeach, learn more about ETC hotels at [Hotel Casa Del Mar](#) and [Shutters on the Beach](#).