

Hot List 2014: Meet A.L. Steiner, Artist/Activist and Member of Chicks on Speed

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Photo by IO Tillet Wright

A.L. Steiner has left her mark in Miami, D.C., San Francisco and New York City. Now it's L.A.'s turn to serve as home base to activist-artist Steiner. The Hammer Museum's biennial exhibition [Made in L.A. 2014](http://hammer.ucla.edu/made-in-la-2014/) (<http://hammer.ucla.edu/made-in-la-2014/>) showcases the work of 35 local emerging or under-recognized artists. Steiner's installation, *Accidenthell*, is a fusion of photos and video intended "to explore notions of empathy, dissemination, agency and urgency." Making a statement, asking the tough questions and ruffling feathers are nothing new to Steiner, who is a member of the iconic electroclash female music ensemble Chicks on Speed.

At the Hammer Museum, newcomers will quickly learn that provocative images are true to her signature style and intricately woven together to create a unique experience for every set of eyes. "It's about putting up work and having the audience members respond," she says. "That's the goal I have. And the response can be to imagery, to some of the video work, the

combination or the experience of those together. It's set up with a lot of powerful work and potential for people to have different experiences.”

Although Steiner may always feel more like a New Yorker at heart, her transition to L.A. has had a positive impact on her work, evident in *Accidenthell*. “I’m from New York, and that part will never leave me. But I’m heavily influenced, and at least engaged, in the environment I’m in—the national environment but also political and social and components.” And as a professor at USC Roski School of Fine Arts, she has certainly kept her finger on the pulse.

So how does a New Yorker feel about being included in an exhibition called *Made in L.A.*? “It’s really great to be included with people who are in Made in L.A.,” she says. “There’s a large group of people who identify with being here or not being here or in transition or longterm residents. *Accidenthell* is like a coming out.”