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T Magazine Editors on Things They're Into Right Now

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A Little Bookstore, Inspired by Ed Ruscha

On a leafy block of Cypress Avenue, which runs parallel to the Los Angeles River in Northeast L.A.'s Cypress Park neighborhood, the writer and editor Christie Hayden has opened Oof Books. Hayden, who developed a love for artist-made books while a graduate student at the Maryland Institute College of Art and most recently worked with Hauser & Wirth's Book & Printed Matter Lab, found the pocket-size space while

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searching for an apartment on Craigslist. The idea for a bookshop came together almost immediately. She tapped designers Jonathan Olivares, Paul Matevosyan and Raffy Mardirossian to create simple, bold shelving — painted mustard yellow in a nod to the Ed Ruscha painting from which the shop takes its name — and began sourcing books. Oof specializes in artist-made and locally published books and zines, as well as older catalogs and monographs. Some of Hayden's favorite recent finds include Jenny Holzer's "Truisms" and a Fernand Léger that she says, "I'm definitely going to grieve a bit to sell." The shop also features art objects by ceramist Grant Levy-Lucero and hosts regular work and talks from emerging L.A. artists. — MERRELL HAMBLETON



Moving Art

On screen, many of artist Zaria Forman's glacial drawings could pass for photographs. But in person, their scale alone — on average, 5 feet by 7.5 feet — makes you feel you're floating by an iceberg at close range.

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Forman first traveled to remote, icy regions with her mother, the fine art photographer Rena Bass Forman, who died in 2011 at age 57. The next year, Forman led an <u>expedition to Greenland</u> in her honor. And in 2015, she sailed the Antarctic coast on the National Geographic Explorer, where she recorded an audio of sea ice melting, releasing trapped air with percussive pops and clicks. This, along with a video piece and her drawings, will be in a new solo show at <u>Winston Wächter's Seattle gallery</u>, "Antarctica," beginning Saturday.

For Forman, the ice tells an urgent story. At 34, she has dedicated her career to making people care about climate change, rendering these fragile, rarely seen ice sheets with the singularity of portraits. She is also a <u>TED speaker</u> and, later this month, will speak about her work to Google and NASA, with whom she has twice flown on the <u>Operation IceBridge</u>, whose scientists measure the thickness of sea ice by plane. Forman invites us to make a more personal connection. "These landscapes are so dear to my heart," she says. — ABBY RABINOWITZ







Easy Italian

It would be easy to say that the Brooklyn restaurant <u>Lilia</u> is an Italian lover's dream. Words don't do the homemade pastas justice (though Pete Wells did <u>a pretty good job</u>, and his three stars and NYT Critic's Pick ranking speak for themselves). The familial feel of the place is only heightened by the pretty plates of shareable antipasti — and perfect negronis. But as evidenced by the sheer possibility of booking a table there almost two years after it opened, the perpetually packed joint attracts palettes and appetites of all kinds.

Chef Missy Robbins, who can't be written about without a mention of her time cooking at Chicago's Spiaggia, where the Obamas became fans of her food, is to thank for the menu. She's friendly and smart and down-to-earth — traits I've learned from devouring her new cookbook, "Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ... Life!" As a memoir peppered with her home kitchen recipes, it's a good read that's also lovely to look at. Somewhere between instructions on how to build a pantry and grill summer beans (which were on the menu at Lilia on a recent visit) and steps for preparing fried chicken and, of course, pastas, is a

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section on the Italian aperitivo hour — and a simple little instruction to pour the perfect negroni. \$35, <u>Rizzoli</u>. — ALAINNA LEXIE BEDDIE



The Scent of an Animal

It's not often that you hear fragrance described as "animalic" these days — even when they were originally sourced from living creatures, like civet cats and sperm whales. The aroma that we know as musk, for example, first came from the gland of a male musk deer. Today, we discuss musk-based perfumes as warm or leathery or spicy. It's an

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interesting distinction given that other bottles are labeled according to their scents' origins: Flower-based perfumes are referred to as "floral," for example, and amber colognes as "woodsy." But we don't throw around "animalic."

Come to think of it, less and less do we hear the words "perfume" or "cologne" at all. Increasingly, a scented spray is simply a "fragrance" — for both him and her. And at the crossroads of these modern truths sits the new gender-neutral fragrance from Eris Parfums. "I love fragrances and don't gender them," says the line's founder and creative director, the perfume historian Barbara Herman, "but I think there's no escaping that there are conventionally feminine and masculine perfume notes." To create her new bottle of Mx. (pronounced "mix"), she set out to capture something animalic — and universal. The result is not for everyone: Some men think it's too feminine — some women, that it's too masculine. But with peppery ginger top notes, a sweet hit of saffron, and a smooth base of patchouli and sandalwood, I think it's just right. \$150, erisparfums.com. — A.L.B.