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Best of Oakland and the East Bay

Let's Get This Party Started

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From super-rich and delicious thick-crust pizza to crazy-fresh artisanal cocktails and vegan soul food that will make you swear off meat, Oakland—and the East Bay, for that matter—has it all going on. It's an exciting city, with hipster and minimalist restaurants snaring the attention of *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Blog *Movoto.com* just named it No. 1 in its compilation of the 10 Most Exciting Cities in America. And that's what we celebrate in this issue—the Best of Oakland and the East Bay. Let's get this party started!

Best Art Gallery

Vessel Gallery

Before moving to 25th Street in booming and bustling Uptown in 2010, Lonnie Lee had been quietly drawing followers for six years to the first iteration of her Vessel gallery, on Ashby Avenue in Berkeley. In that smaller space, she demonstrated her exquisite and adventurous taste in fine art, jewelry, custom furniture, and crafts, but now her profile has expanded dramatically since the 30-year Oakland resident radically renovated and moved into the spacious, architecturally splendid upper-floor space of a 1906 building that originally functioned as a hayloft for horses used by the Oakland Fire Department. Since relocating, Lee has become an active member of the burgeoning Art Murmur scene, regularly hosting cutting-edge group shows, while also highlighting the diverse works by some of her favorite painters, sculptors, and other artists, including Juan Santiago, Sanjay Vora, Wayne Shafer, and Cyrus Tilton (creator of the gallery's unforgettable and enveloping locust swarm exhibit).

471 25th St., Oakland, 510-893-8800; www.vessel-gallery.com.