

Beautiful Black Lives Matter Murals Now Cover Melrose Avenue Design Stores

Artist Abel Macias's creations can now be spotted across L.A. design storefronts

By Mallery Roberts Morgan

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Artist Abel Macias worked with Lawson-Fenning, A Love Language Project, and members of the local community to cover boarded-up design stores with Black Lives Matter messages. Photo: Abel Macias

Artist and muralist Abel Macias says that every boarded-up storefront in L.A. looked like the perfect “street canvas” to him. Searching for a way to support the protests, he and his friends Glenn Lawson and Grant Fenning, cofounders of the design store Lawson-Fenning, had the same idea: to convert the boarded-up facades into a living artwork. To realize their vision, they worked with [A Love Language Project](#) and neighboring design businesses on Melrose Avenue including The Window, Object, [Hostler Burrows](#), and Bend Goods. Some of these shops—Object in particular—were damaged during the unrest over the past week. The local design community is currently [raising funds](#) to get Object back on its feet.



Volunteers, participating business owners, and passersby helped fill in the paintings on Saturday. Photo: Abel Macias



The paintings now cover numerous Melrose Avenue design stores including Lawson-Fenning, The Window, Object, Hostler Burrows, and Bend Goods. Photo: Abel Macias

For the multi-storefront mural, Macias created a cohesive color scheme and a series of motifs to cover each storefront that would function as “a canvas to write messages,” says the artist. On Saturday, in solidarity with Black Lives Matter Los Angeles and with the participation of Arts Bridging the Gap and Inner City Arts, Lawson-Fenning organized a day for participants to fill in the outlines with words and drawings. Along with children from participating youth programs, passersby were welcomed to join in as well. Local paint company Portola Paints donated supplies. “There were kids, adults, people stopping in their cars and hopping out to join, locals walking by with their dogs,” explains Macias. “Everyone writing messages...it grew completely organically,” he says. “It was a really beautiful day.”