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The bohemian world of Venice Beach - in pictures

▲ Jenna carefully watches two giant boa constrictors, Venice Beach. Photograph: Dotan Saguy

After Disneyland, Venice Beach is the second largest tourist attraction in southern California and over a three-year period, photographer Dotan Saguy captured the artists, bodybuilders, musicians, vendors and homeless people who made up the diverse community. With gentrification creeping in, his work, documented in a book and an exhibition at the Venice Arts Gallery in Los Angeles, acts as a snapshot of a way of life that might fade away



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Five-year-old Jackson watches a boa constrictor while another slithers toward his mom Jenna, relaxing nearby in the sand. A street performer entrusted the two locals with his large boas while taking a quick break from the bustle of the boardwalk Venice Beach: The Last Days of a Bohemian Paradise by Dotan Saguy is out now





A skateboarder jumps high over the Venice Skate Park, briefly letting his lone shadow imprint the bottom of the pool



An oiled-up bodybuilder wearing nothing but a speedo enters the stage of the Mr Muscle Beach contest



A group of young skateboarders gather to smoke marijuana in the early morning sun in front of the Touch of Venice mural on Windward Avenue. They came from various parts of the country to live the bohemian lifestyle on Venice Beach for a few days before moving on to their next destination



forced out of its location on the boardwalk. The culprit? Snapchat wanted to expand to yet another building on the boardwalk



An improvised performance by Elizabeth, a local artist dressed as a white bird, and Freedom, a homeless musician, turns into a group dance as a handful of spectators join in. Elizabeth and her homeless counterpart decided to perform the improvised dance together on a grassy hill by the beach after meeting for the first time at Cafe Gratitude earlier that day



A weightlifter raises a barbell loaded with heavy plates while Ike Catcher performs an aerial handstand at the world-famous Muscle Beach Gym



King and Queen Neptune frolic in the Pacific Ocean waters, celebrating the start of summer with the yearly Neptune Parade



A young woman dances at the Venice Beach Drum Circle, as the sun sets over the ocean on a warm summer evening



A group of young hippies sing on a bench across from the Muscle Beach Gym. The boardwalk is deserted by tourists on this rainy spring day





After a surfing lesson on a stormy spring afternoon, a group of teens on a class trip walks back from the ocean carrying their surfboards on their heads



Hopper, the young man with an artificial leg in the foreground, and his friend T – a middle-aged hippie with the hat in the background – hang out with their many dogs on the Venice boardwalk



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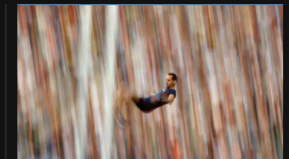
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