JENNIFER ALOR A AND GUILLERMO CALZADILLA
The couple, who call San Juan, Puerto Rico, home, make little distinction between work and life. They don’t keep a proper studio and bicker their way through creating their politically-minded performance pieces and sculptures (above, in 2010).

RICHARD SERRA
I spoke with the sculptor on the eve of a 40-year retrospective at MoMA in New York in 2007, which included the staggering piece Sequence (above).

BETTE SAAR
In 2011, “Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960–80” at UCLA’s Hammer Museum put the spotlight on African-American artists like Saar (left; her studio is shown above), a jewelry designer turned printmaker.

CINDY SHERMAN
Over the years, the photographer has transformed herself into everything from a Renaissance Madonna to a sultry screen siren, and her TriBeCa duplex penthouse (right) was a veritable costume department when W came calling in 2012. Rolling racks held Moroccan robes and “Upper East Side ladies’ cast-off stuff,” and her wigs were organized by color and genre (men’s, clowns, etc.).

ED RUSCHA
Just before Ruscha’s major 2000 show at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., W visited the artist in Venice, California (above). Pressed to explain paintings like Blast Curtain, 1969 (right), he said, “I don’t pretend to understand myself.”