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Wayne Thiebaud, "Woman in Tub" (1965).

CHARLES DESMARAIS' ART PICKS

"Wayne Thiebaud: 1958-1968": The first 10 years of Thiebaud's mature work — the pictures that had the remarkable effect of striking Alfred Frankenstein, *The Chronicle's* great art commentator of the day, critically dumb. Free. Closes May 13. Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, UC Davis, 254 Old Davis Road, Davis. (530) 752-8500. <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu>

Wyatt Kahn: An eclectic selection of "paintings" and prints by the 34-year-old Kahn archly conflates 50-year-old art movements like post-minimalism and pop. Many of the works are composed of multiple, fragmentary objects made of plain canvas or lead wrapped around stretchers, which build up to loopy, engaging, figurative abstractions. Through June 16. Free. Adrian Rosenfeld Gallery, 1150 25th St., S.F. (415) 285-2841. <https://adrianrosenfeld.com>

Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller: "Forest (for a thousand years...)": In a small redwood forest, employing a little-used recording technique called "ambisonics," the artists create a virtual dome of intensely lifelike recorded sound. The 28-minute collage suggests a historical progression from discovery, through conflict, to redemption. Through June 30. \$2-\$5. UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 1156 High St., Santa Cruz. (831) 502-2998. <http://ias.ucsc.edu>

The Art of Rube Goldberg: Plan several hours if you hope to fully absorb all of this engaging exhibition. The San Francisco-born Goldberg (1883-1970) is noted for intricate drawings of complicated solutions to simple problems, and there are scores of original works on view. And that's only the second half of a long career. Through July 8. \$12-\$14; free 18 and under. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. (415) 655-7800. www.thecjm.org

Cult of the Machine: Precisionism and American Art: This large exhibition gets a bit repetitive, with picture after picture of mechanical forms seen close up, at skewed angles. Yet there is no denying the visceral charge one still gets from the most invigorating of these images, or the continuing influence of the era (1910-50) on design, architecture and art. Through Aug. 12. \$13-\$28. De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, S.F. (415) 750-3600. <http://deyoung.famsf.org>