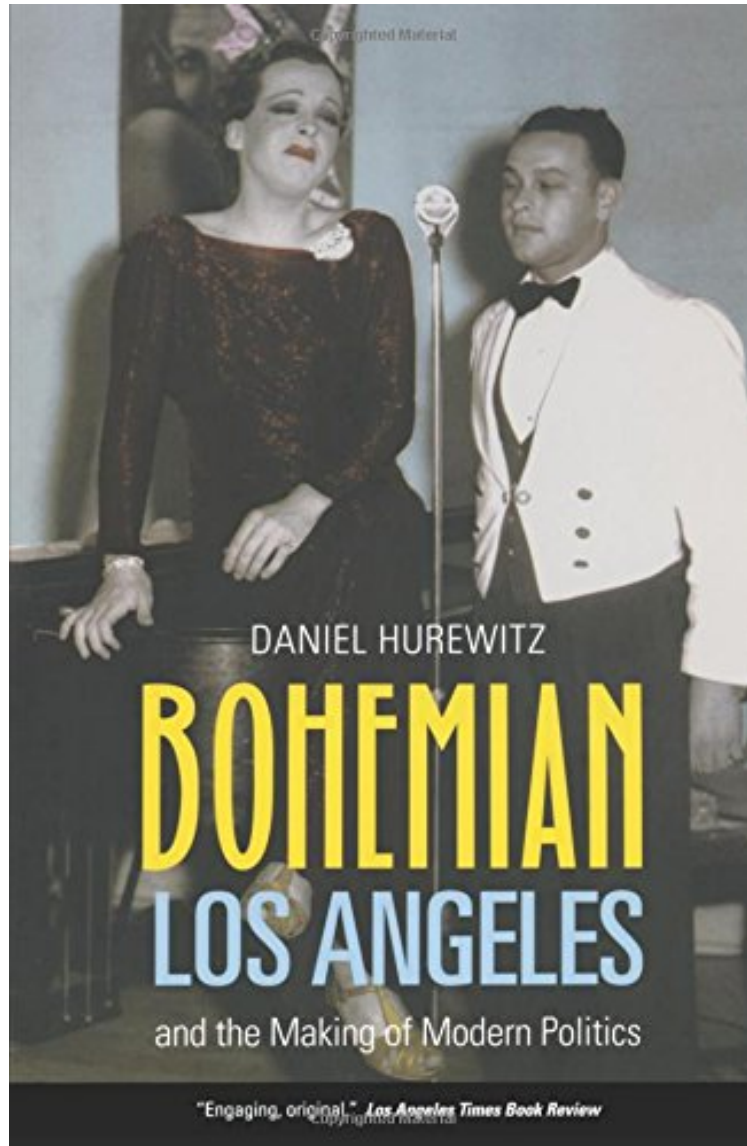


## Bohemian Los Angeles: and the Making of Modern Politics

*Daniel Hurewitz*

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**Daniel Hurewitz : Bohemian Los Angeles: and the Making of Modern Politics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bohemian Los Angeles: and the Making of Modern Politics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Silverlake comes alive!By Jane VarnBohemian Los Angeles provides an extraordinary look at the history of identity politics. I was fascinated by the long struggle of men and women for civil rights denied them by virtue of the sexual identity. Hurewitz also writes a beguiling story of the

connection between the communists of Los Angeles in the 30s and 40s and how intertwined the lives of these people were. Today Silverlake is a hip, upscale community, attracting new residents, while retaining and expanding on its earlier charms. Hurewitz reminds us of a time when it was called Edendale and housed some of the most important artists, architects, and writers of the day. In a time when we struggle for community, Bohemian Los Angeles offers an example of heroic efforts by people constantly under surveillance and attack by the "moral" forces of the city. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice, but not enough bohemiaBy jo jo from baltimoreNice, but expected more bohemia, and less politics!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book that reveals L.A.'s Bohemian Past!By Eddie Coronado (Author of Advanced Law of Attraction Techniques)If you are a fan of Los Angeles' colorful history, then you will love this book. It's well written and contains lots of fascinating information about the City of the Angels that will captivate you until the last page. It's a great account of L.A. bohemian history.

Bohemian Los Angeles brings to life a vibrant and all-but forgotten milieu of artists, leftists, and gay men and women whose story played out over the first half of the twentieth century and continues to shape the entire American landscape. It is the story of a hidden corner of Los Angeles, where the personal first became the political, where the nation's first enduring gay rights movement emerged, and where the broad spectrum of what we now think of as identity politics was born. Portraying life over a period of more than forty years in the hilly enclave of Edendale, near downtown Los Angeles, Daniel Hurewitz considers the work of painters and printmakers, looks inside the Communist Party's intimate cultural scene, and examines the social world of gay men. In this vividly written narrative, he discovers why and how these communities, inspiring both one another and the city as a whole, transformed American notions of political identity with their ideas about self-expression, political engagement, and race relations. Bohemian Los Angeles, incorporating fascinating oral histories, personal letters, police records, and rare photographs, shifts our focus from gay and bohemian New York to the west coast with significant implications for twentieth-century U.S. history and politics.

From Publishers WeeklyIn this fascinating, accessible history of Los Angeles's Boho world in the first half of the 20th century, Hurewitz shows how "groups of individuals who engaged in similar activities and sought to adopt a shared self-definition" made a major social impact. Focusing on the community of Edendale, on the edge of Silver Lake Reservoir, Hunter College history professor Hurewitz begins by examining the social circle of the once world-famous drag performer Julian Eltinge and the gay male scene in the 1930s. He moves from there to Edendale's incredibly productive arts scene in the 1930s. In outlining the ties between artists, homosexuals and Communist-based community organizers in the postwar years, Hurewitz makes an intriguing and convincing case that art and politics were the perfect mix in "constructing an organized community." His book is particularly illuminating on the very public "fairy and pansy" subcultures of the 1930s and '40s and how they provoked a right-wing backlash from city government that also resulted in hysteria about a Communist menace. Hurewitz concludes with a discussion of homosexual Communist Harry Hay, who formed the first gay rights group, the Mattachine Society, in 1950. Filled with groundbreaking research, this engaging study dovetails nicely with Lillian Fademan and Stuart Timmon's recent work on Gay L.A., and deserves its own popular readership. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Stakes new claims upon the history of queer Los Angeles, mapping broad potentialities onto a small locale.