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Datebook: Art inspired by Octavia Butler, photos that get gender-ambiguous, revisiting a Bay Area group

The art of a San Francisco group. Works inspired by a prominent L.A. sci-fi writer. And the powerful prints of a Cuban artist. Plus: photography that touches on the ambiguities of gender, surreal embroideries and paper puppet theaters. Here are 11 art events to check out in the coming week:



“The Rat Bastard Protective Association,” at the Landing. The Rat Bastard Protective Association was a close-knit group of now well-known California artists — including Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Wallace Berman and Joan Brown — that worked together in a building dubbed “Painterland” in San Francisco. Anastasia Aukeman, who wrote a book on the group — [“Welcome to Painterland: Bruce Conner and the Rat Bastard Protective Association”](#) — has now organized a group exhibition that brings the group’s works together for the first time since the late 1950s. *Opens Saturday at 6 p.m. and runs through Jan. 7. 5118 W. Jefferson Blvd., West Adams, thelandinggalleries.com.*