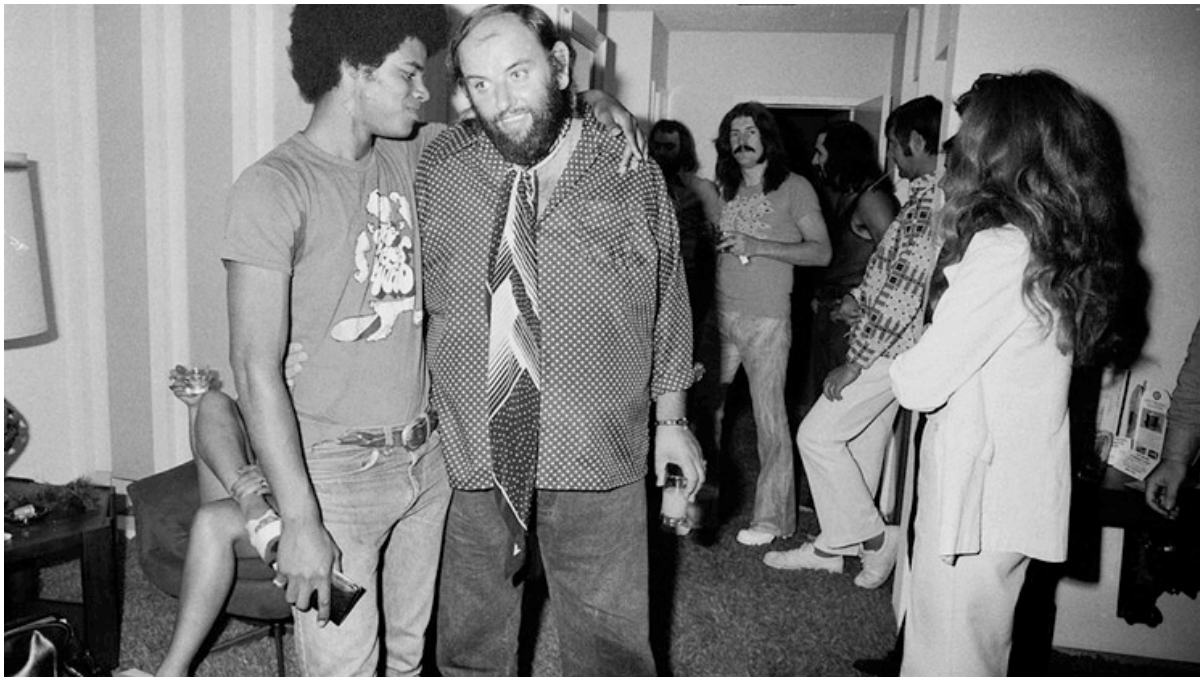


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LAWEEKLY

Hammer Conversations: Todd Gray & Hamza Walker



Todd Gray with Led Zeppelin manager Peter Grant

By [Siran Babayan](#)

July 10, 2016

Hammer Conversations hosts co-curator Hamza Walker, who discusses with Todd Gray his contribution to the museum's biennial exhibit, "Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only" (which runs through Aug. 28). Gray's "performative work" is

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staged for the duration of the exhibit and is inspired by his friendship with Ray Manzarek. After the death of the Doors keyboardist in 2013, Manzarek's widow gave Gray his clothes, which he wore every day for an entire year as part of his "social sculpture." (It's also the subject of Gray's current exhibit, "Time Machine/Hippie Dandy" at Meliksetian | Briggs gallery.) Gray is an L.A.-based artist who once worked as Michael Jackson's personal photographer. His 2009 photography book, *Michael Jackson: Before He Was King*, features images of both the singer and the Jackson 5 from 1978 to 1984.