2021: A year in art on The Verge

Illustrations by Alex Castro, photography by Philip Cheung & Richard Vogel

This is an absolutely bonkers story literally about sex, drugs, and podcasting. A house rented in Beverly Hills meant to be a creative hub for podcasts was crushed under its weight and turned into a mismanaged party house. This story already had a great deal of strong visuals. Philip Cheung's photography of Norm Steele is seriously stunning. Richard Vogel's photos paint such a vivid picture of what a party at the house is like. We had decided early on we wanted an illustration, however, as the lead art. While we had the idea of showing the house falling apart, it took a few iterations and changing of hands to really capture the tone correctly. Ultimately, Alex Castro did such a fantastic job, especially with the additional illustrations in the body of the article. — William Joel, creative director

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