

BEYOND EDEN ART FAIR

A multi-gallery event celebrating the new contemporary art scene in Los Angeles
www.beyondedenartfair.com

October 9 - 11, 2009

LA Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90027
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Los Angeles' first Beyond Eden Art Fair to be held at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park.

The Beyond Eden Art Fair is a multi-gallery event celebrating the new contemporary art scene in Los Angeles. The public is invited to attend this special event and admission is free.

After the success of last year's East of Eden exhibition which drew over 3,000 people, the organizers have decided to branch out the scope of the fair and expand the focus geographically to include galleries from all across Los Angeles. The goal of Beyond Eden is to celebrate the new contemporary movement that has been building momentum and a patron base in Los Angeles for the past several decades and is finally starting to receive mainstream recognition from major institutions and publications the world over. Organizers are partnering with some of Los Angeles' leading cultural and community organizations to help broaden the scope of the event. A percentage of the event's sales also will be donated to MOCA on behalf of the MOCA Contemporaries. The event organizers forecast this year's event to be even larger and more well received and are expecting upwards of 5,000 people to pass through over the weekend.

Beyond Eden will showcase the works of over 15 galleries and will be held inside the beautiful confines of the historic Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery during the weekend of October 9th, 10th and 11th, with an opening night celebration planned for Saturday, October 10th. Participating galleries include Billy Shire Fine Arts, Black Maria Gallery, Carmichael Gallery of Contemporary Art, Copro Gallery, Crewest, DRKRM, Gallery 1988, Gallery Nucleus, La Luz De Jesus, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), LeBasse Projects, New Image Art, Subliminal Projects, Synchronicity Space and Thinkspace.

Beyond Eden will also feature an 'Artist Village' in the courtyard outside of the LAMAG in the beautiful confines of the Barnsdall Art Park. The 'Artist Village' will feature an array of live painters curated by the featured galleries alongside installations from DeLab and Machine Projects plus live screen printing from P. U. M. A. Project and performance art courtesy of Cannibal Flower.

Founded in 1951, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a historic 10,000 square foot facility located on the sprawling grounds of Olive Hill in the Barnsdall Art Park. The park overlooks the city of Los Angeles and is also home to the famous Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House and Arts Complex. Under the Department of Cultural Affairs, the LAMAG is the premier city-run gallery that focuses on contemporary art, particularly the work of living Southern California artists.

Beyond Eden: Urban Indie Art in Paradise
by Shana Nys Dambrot

Building on the overwhelming response to last year's East of Eden locals-centric art fair, the organizers broaden the scope of this year's much-anticipated sequel. They made great strides in codifying the invaluable contribution of LA's East Side to the overall flavor of the city's visual culture-and now with this year's Beyond Eden, they prepare to take stock of that flavor across the entire spectrum of LA's independent gallery scene. Analogous to that term as it's used in the music world, independent or indie is as much if not more a state of mind and taste-a lifestyle, an identity-as it is a business level.

This year the geography is conceptual and aesthetic, not literal. Participating galleries represent the most popular voices in the "new mainstream," from Bergamot Station to Mid-Wilshire to West LA - Copro, Carmichael, New Image Art, Subliminal Projects, Black Maria, Thinkspace. At Beyond Eden the whole genealogy of galleries where this kind of work is most associated, nurtured and celebrated, all present their take on the no-name genre, and with 15 galleries side by side, the project is the perfect place for DIY scholars to work out their own definition of what the indie art world looks like now. LA is where everything starts; every trend is exported from the west coast. What was Helter Skelter here 15 years ago is the most mainstream thing imaginable these days. It's all over the newspapers and big glossy monthlies, in the biggest galleries, on high-end clothing lines and vodka bottles, and museums around the world.

LA is a stage for emergence into the international art scene. More artists live and work here from around the nation and globe than any other global art center-at least it certainly feels that way. Maybe it's the schools. Maybe it's the film money, or the sunshine. Maybe it's the illusion of eternal youth. The answer is not likely to be either simple or finite, but the question is certainly worth asking. Curious art-world minds want to know-what is it about LA that makes it so unique? Well, Beyond Eden is a great place to start.

Narrative, figurative, poetic, even mythological at times, the indie LA art style is edgy and illustration-based, drawing on street-art forms like tagging and posting, with a taste for the vintage, for the seducing of the innocent, the facing down of monsters, the mastery of nature. It's part surrealism, it's omnivorous when it comes to source material, it's cinematic, sci-fi inflected, rebel-embracing. It's romantic sometimes, often beautiful to a point of vertigo. It's all that and occasionally none of it. And now this loose affiliation of independent, alternative, post-Brow, avant-Brow, pop surrealist, urban romantics-whatever you want to call them is okay as long as it's clearly outside the boundaries of the high-end, forbidding, over-priced, white-box fortress stereotype.

-Shana Nys Dambrot
Los Angeles, 2009

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Saturday, October 10th

Noon-5PM: OPEN FAIR HOURS / ART VIEWING

2PM: SYMPOSIUM - Artist Talk (Details to be announced)

7-8PM: OPENING NIGHT KICK-OFF EVENT, sponsored by the MOCA Contemporaries. Special membership drive (sign up and receive a special 'gift bag')

7:30PM: SYMPOSIUM - A special address from Mark Steven Greenfield, the director of the LA Municipal Art Gallery

8PM: SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Presentation of a lifetime achievement award to Billy Shire in recognition of all he's done for the new contemporary art movement.

8PM-Midnight: OPENING NIGHT GALA - Cash bar by 1933 Group and Bigfoot Lodge. Tunes from DJ Mr. NumberOneDerful (Bitter: Sweet)

Sunday, October 11th

Noon-5PM: OPEN FAIR HOURS / ART VIEWING

1PM: SYMPOSIUM- Artist Talk (Details to be announced)

2PM: SPECIAL EVENT - Film Screening at The Barnsdall Theater 'Scribble08' - 48 minute art documentary film featuring Clayton Brothers, Martha Rich, Jeff Soto, Joe Sorren, Camille Rose Garcia, and Kevin Christy from Murphy Fine Art Films

Admission is Free / Open to the Public

Partners:

1933 Group

Arrested Motion

Art Ltd.

Artillery

ArtScene

Baby Tattoo

Bigfoot Lodge

Citizen LA

Coolhaus

Daily Djour

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

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