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EVENT DETAILS
TUES. JANUARY 31, 2017
7:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

REGISTER ONLINE ✓

LOCATION
**L.A. HOTEL
DOWNTOWN**

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/arts_and_entertainment/acres-of-art-at-the-convention-center/article_d83865f8-d695-11e6-b922-0f731419d8d7.html

FEATURED

Arts & Entertainment

Acres of Art at the Convention Center

By Nicholas Slayton Jan 10, 2017



photo courtesy of the L.A. Art Show

The 22nd annual Los Angeles Art Show takes place at the Convention Center this week. It will have booths from more than 100 galleries. Highlights include Lewis Hock's "a wall," a 95-foot barrier in the middle of the display space, and Raphael Montañez Ortiz smashing a piano.

DTLA - Downtown Los Angeles has no lack of art display spaces. The Museum of Contemporary Art and The Broad show blue-chip artists on Bunker Hill. The Historic Core galleries bubble over with young and up-and-coming creative types. There is even plenty of street art.

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This week, the lineup expands even further, as Downtown again hosts one of the city's biggest art celebrations.

THE BUNKER HILL
BAR & GRILL

213.688.2988

CORNER OF 5TH & GRAND

HAPPY HOUR
3PM - 7PM

WEEKEND BRUNCH
\$3 MIMOSAS

 A promotional graphic for The Bunker Hill Bar & Grill. It features the restaurant's name and logo at the top, followed by the phone number 213.688.2988 and the address "CORNER OF 5TH & GRAND". Below this, it advertises "HAPPY HOUR 3PM - 7PM" and "WEEKEND BRUNCH \$3 MIMOSAS". At the bottom, there are two images: a close-up of a burger with a tomato slice on top, and a view of a bar counter with various bottles of liquor.

The 22nd annual L.A. Art Show will run from Wednesday-Sunday, Jan. 11-15, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The complex's South Hall will turn into a maze of creativity, with booths from more than 100 galleries and work from 18 countries. The estimated 50,000 visitors will include serious collectors and casual art fans.

"This show is curated in a way that gives visitors and collectors a chance to see things that might not be on the top of their list," said Kim Martindale, the show's producer and co-founder.

The L.A. Art Show started in 1995 in Pasadena, and initially focused on historic works. Now in its third decade, much of the exhibition looks at contemporary art. Visitors will have a chance to ogle art and make purchases, with pieces ranging from roughly \$200 to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There will be showcases for past styles. The "Roots" section will bounce across time with both 19th century works and new surrealist pieces.

A big addition this year is a 50,000-square-foot section dedicated to museums in Southern California. Martindale said there has always been a museum presence, but in 2017 the L.A. Art Show is bringing in institutions that are collaborating on the Getty Foundation's "Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA" project, which is looking at Latin American artists and opens in the fall. Martindale said the L.A. Art Show section is not officially affiliated with the Getty exhibition, but that he wanted to capitalize on the timing.

"With 'LA/LA' in September, I really wanted to showcase L.A. and its new and amazing museums," Martindale said.



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photos courtesy of the L.A. Art Show

One of the biggest works in the section will be Lewis Hock's "a wall," which is exactly what it sounds like: a 95-foot wall made of paper bricks, stretching through the exhibition space and interrupting foot traffic and eye lines. LACMA Adjunct Curator Chon Noriega said that the Pacific Standard Time collaboration wasn't intended to comment on or coincide with the current political climate and tense rhetoric over immigration, but the natural context does add a sense of immediacy.

"Entering into the space where there's a 95-foot wall dividing it in half will certainly make people aware of what's swirling around the media right now," Noriega said.

Another Pacific Standard Time participant is artist Raphael Montañez Ortiz, who will be performing his signature piano destruction. Ortiz has been smashing pianos for 51 years, engaging with audiences as he does so. He'll appear on Saturday at 2 p.m.

The art show will run a shuttle for attendees to MOCA's Grand Avenue location and the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA space in Little Tokyo.

Single day admission is \$30, while a four-day pass runs \$60.

The Pop Scene

Along with the new elements, the show includes some returning favorites. They include the Littletopia section. It focuses on Pop and Surrealist art. Co-curator Greg Escalante said the galleries that make up Littletopia are kindred spirits.

"It's the section that's more reflective of newer trends in art. It's younger, edgier, a bit more underground," Escalante said.

The Littletopia section will hand out the 2017 Artist Lifetime Achievement Award to Mel Ramos. Escalante said the San Francisco-based artist is underrated, but is just as influential as fellow Pop artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Martindale said that the show is about showcasing and selling art, as well as educating visitors. The lineup includes 10 lectures and panel discussions, dubbed "Dialogs LA," with artists and curators discussing their creative process and contemporary art circles.

Martindale said the variety of pieces gives collectors a chance to break out of their comfort zone. Escalante echoed that take, though he joked that there are never as many collectors as dealers would like. He said the art market has recovered from the 2008 economic collapse, and he noticed more buyers at last year's L.A. Art Show.

Martindale said those shifts are a sign of how the show is growing. The focus on contemporary work came in response to visitor and collector feedback. The greater focus on Los Angeles art also is a response to what visitors have asked for. Martindale said that even though it's an annual event, if someone has not attended in three or four years, this week's show will be almost entirely new.

The Los Angeles Art Show runs Wednesday-Sunday, Jan. 11-15, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa St., (310) 822-9145 or laartshow.com.

nicholas@downtownnews.com

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