

ARTFORUM

Board Walk

LOS ANGELES 07.20.12



Left: LA MoCA director Jeffrey Deitch. Right: Artist Kim Schoenstadt and dealer Sarah Watson

THE LOS ANGELES ART WORLD is no different in summer than the art world is anywhere else. What does it do? It goes to the beach—namely, Venice Beach. At least, it did last weekend, when Hammer Museum curator Ali Subotnick staged a three-day, outdoor extension of “Made in L.A.,” the museum’s current show of new homegrown art, along the boardwalk.

Over the same few days, galleries in Culver City and elsewhere mounted the sort of group shows that are a dog-days tradition everywhere. Starting the week’s engines on July 10, the Venice branch of New York’s L&M Arts opened “Mash Up: Collage from 1930 to the Present,” put together by gallery director Sarah Watson. The show lived up to its title, mixing small, exquisite collages by Romare Bearden and Joseph Cornell with the organized chaos of a floor-bound Paul McCarthy process piece and a large new patchwork painting by Sterling Ruby.

During dinner at nearby Tlapazola, a Mexican place that serves especially potent margaritas, Watson lifted her glass and said, “To collage!” in a seductive stage whisper that drew cheers from the obsessive CK Wilde, a bricoleur of worthless currencies, and Aaron Noble, who confided that when he isn’t painting he mans the bra shops for busty women that he owns with his actress wife.

— *Linda Yablonsky*