

Los Angeles Art Show Experiences Record-Breaking Sales, Attendance



LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Despite an unstable stock market, a housing slump with no end in sight, sky-high art prices and uncharacteristically lousy weather for Los Angeles, record-breaking sales and attendance was seen at the 13th Annual Los Angeles Art Show at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica.

Total sales exceeded \$20 million and attendance exceeded 25,000 between January 23 and 27. With more than 125 dealers showcasing tens of thousands of pieces of fine art, much of it cutting-edge contemporary, guests turned out in droves.

The show also incorporated IFPDA's Los Angeles Fine Print Fair at its venue, offering appropriately priced prints in a variety of genres. The move also expands interest of the show to beginning collectors who seek fine art in their homes.

Celebrities braved the onslaught of downpours as well, including Patricia Heaton, William Shatner, James Franco, Steve Martin, Billy Crystal, Dennis Hopper, Kevin Bacon, Rebecca De Mornay, David Caruso, Sally Kellerman, Maria Bello, David Eigenberg, Robert LaSardo, Elizabeth Berkley,

Greg Lauren and Owen Wilson, who purchased a \$12,000 piece by artist Maya Lin.

The LA Art Show also offered a variety of panelists and presentations with celebrated art experts and connoisseurs, including the popular "Art Collectors' Boot Camp" with Jori Finkel, a wine tasting with Ed Killian featuring Souverain wines and a standing-room-only panel exploring Los Angeles as a legitimate art capital hosted by George Melrod of Art Ltd.

Based on this year's turnout, discussions have also been renewed regarding expansion of the show in 2009. The success of the show is a display of spending power among fine art buyers, and its surge in attendance is a positive economic indicator for the Los Angeles area.

With these record-setting numbers at the LA Art Show and proceeds from the gala benefiting the Art Museum Council of LACMA, combined with the upcoming opening of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, Los Angeles is well-positioned as a legitimate art capital in the world view.

For information, 310-822-9145 or www.laartshow.com.

