

L.A. Art Show expands its global view

[Art, from D1] to loom toward Asia or Central and South America for participants and engage the local communities there."

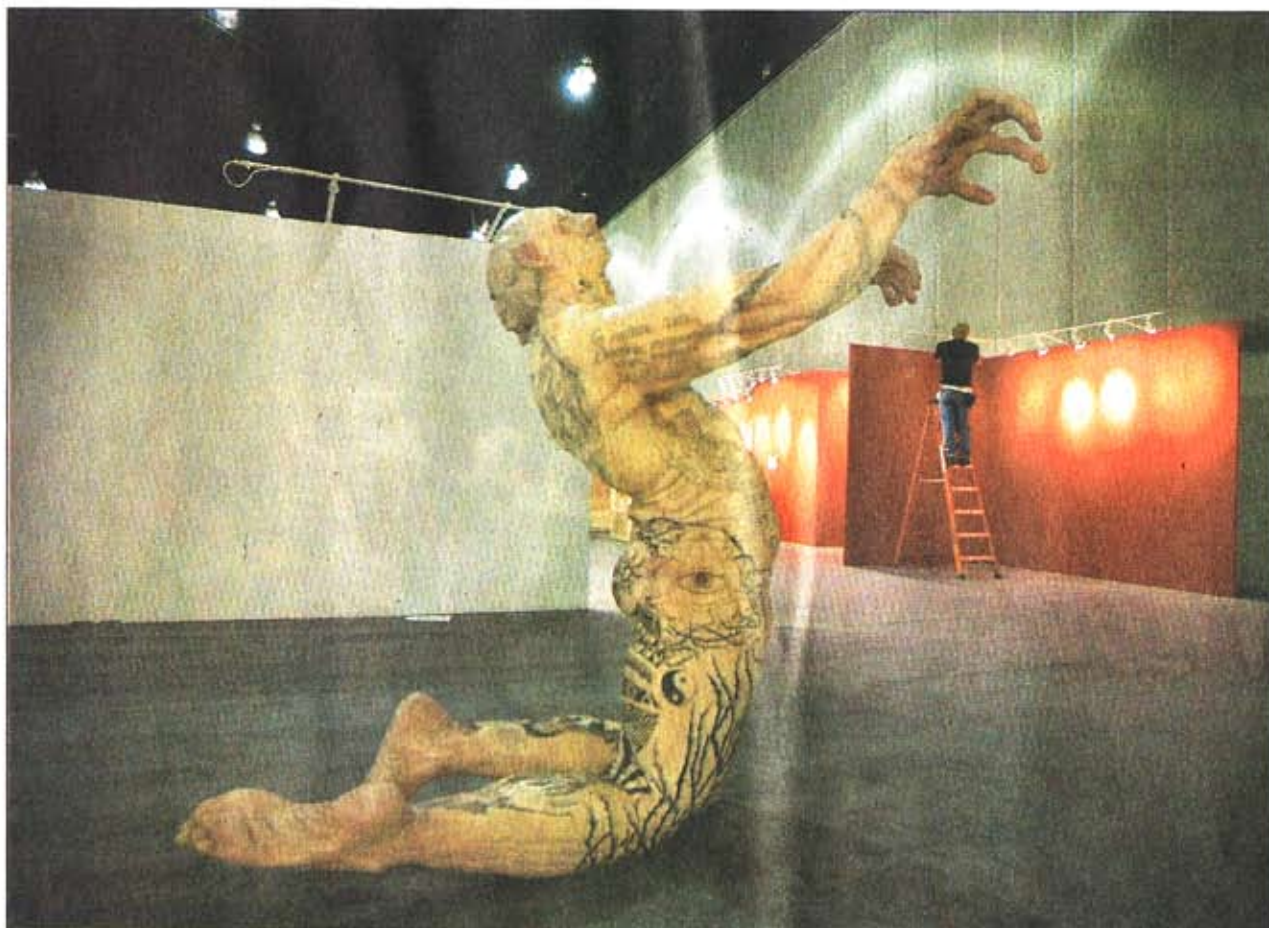
Perhaps as a result, some local gallerists seem to be taking the show more seriously. This year, Southern California's ACE Gallery — which since the late '60s has shown work by Richard Serra, Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg — will participate in the L.A. Art Show for the first time.

"We're taking it very seriously and we're giving a big chunk of art energy in our booth," says ACE Gallery founding director Douglas Christmas. "It'll be a group exhibition — it's not about inventory to be moved as much as selecting wonderful, major pieces to inspire."

Local art collector Dean Valentine attends the L.A. Art Show every year and says he's felt an increasing global presence at the show the last two years.

"There were some good London and French galleries last year, a couple from Berlin that were very good," Valentine says. "It's great for beginning collectors, a good way to find out what's happening in the global contemporary art market just by walking down the aisles."

Actively luring galleries from abroad, however, hasn't always been easy, Martindale says. Since 2002, when the show first hosted foreign galleries, the organizers have come up against language barriers, customs and visa issues, high shipping costs and the burden of flying gallery staff to L.A. represent the art. Not to mention competition: There are roughly half a dozen art fairs of varying sizes and focus around the world every



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

"**SALVATION**," a sculpture by Cindy Jackson, awaits the opening of the L.A. Art Show on Wednesday. The 19th edition, with its expanded international focus, is perking up interest among galleries here and abroad.

month. In January alone Los Angeles will see the art fairs photo.la and Art Los Angeles Contemporary in addition to the L.A. Art Show.

Still, with its deeper pockets and ample marketing resources, Palm Beach Show Group increased L.A. Art Show's international representation last year by 15%. This year, it's doubled that number, with 30% more galleries from some 20 different countries — 51 international galleries in all.

China still has the largest

presence, but Korea is a close second, with 15 galleries — it's the part of the world that the show organizers targeted for growth this year.

"Korea seemed to be building and growing its art scene, so this year we brought on an outside curator, Hoojung Lee, to reach out, and we have some of Korea's top galleries," Martindale says.

Korean artist Choi Jeong Hwa, who has work in the permanent collection at the

Los Angeles County Museum of Art and was part of the Korean pavilion at the 2005 Venice Biennale, will show a sculptural installation. Artist Lee Yong Baek, also from Korea, is re-creating the video and mixed-media installation he showed at the 2011 Venice Biennale; he also created a new performance piece to go with it for the L.A. show.

From China, there will be a special exhibit called "Breathing," about how humans interact with the envi-

ronment, as well as a Chinese brush painting exhibit and a solo show by China's Zhang Yu, a former 2013 Venice Biennale artist. The Chinese government is also sponsoring an exhibit of paintings and ceramics.

"It'll be interesting to contrast the two," says Martindale of the privately sponsored Chinese exhibits versus the show curated by the Chinese government. "It really lets someone see the scope of what's happening in China."

L.A. Art Show

Where: Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa St.

When: Wednesday-Sunday

Price: 1- to 4-day passes \$15-\$35; opening-night party \$125-\$250

Info: laartshow.com

The show is also broadening the *kind* of art being shown, this year introducing a lowbrow, underground art section its calling Littletopia, which is curated by New Orleans' Red Truck Gallery. L.A.'s Thinkspace and the pop-surrealist-oriented La Luz de Jesus will participate in it, as will Mexico City's FIFTY24MX. The move could be controversial. In the past, the L.A. Art Show — which combines historic, traditional, modern and contemporary art — has been criticized for being less focused than other more niche-oriented art fairs.

"I'm sure there will be people saying, 'Why's this here?'" Martindale says. "But that's what this show is about — we want to be as inclusive, artwise, as possible. I think that's our strength."

Exactly, says Coagula Curatorial gallery owner Mat Gleason, who's participating for the first time in the L.A. Art Show because of its broad scope.

"The diversity of the galleries is gonna attract a diversity of collectors," Gleason says. "I'm gonna meet new collectors and that's why I forked up the dough. I wanna see who buys art."

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