



Photos courtesy of L&M Arts, Los Angeles.

## L&M IN L.A.

BY KATY DONOGHUE

Heads turn westward this fall for two big openings in the art world: L&M Arts in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's (LACMA) new, Renzo Piano-designed Lynda and Stewart Resnick Pavilion. On the afternoon of September 25, 2010, L&M's Venice gallery will open its doors, and later in the evening LACMA will hold a gala for its new pavilion. The pair of openings is no coincidence. Although the Los Angeles art scene has grown in recognition, it still takes some effort to get New Yorkers and Europeans to the West Coast for art. Dominique Levy, co-owner of L&M Arts, said, "We feel that by combining energies, we would highlight how vibrant the Los Angeles art scene is." Why not piggyback the two events? Sarah Watson, director of L&M's Venice locale, shared a similar sentiment: "There is an interest in the art [in L.A.] that has grown exponentially. . . . We figured the LACMA pavilion opening will mobilize L.A. in a way that few things could do."

The gallery known for postwar and contemporary shows of work by artists like David Hammons, Liza Lou, Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, and, recently, Yves Tanguy and Alexander Calder has been planning a West Coast expansion for a few years now. For their new digs, co-owners Levy and Robert Mnuchin found an old power station in Venice that was recently rehabbed by the designer Kulapat Yantrasast of WHY Architecture to bring in more natural light. Yantrasast also created an adjacent, complementary space with light allowed in from a large, chapel-like glass ceiling. The choice of location was an obvious one: "Venice has always been a very creative center where artists

enjoy living; it is a vibrant community, and the light is quite unique," Levy said. Watson, who was previously director of Gagosian's Beverly Hills outpost and is quite familiar with Southern California, said, "I have always thought that if I would open up the gallery I would want it to be in Venice. There is a creative community that exists outside the gallery walls."

Inside those walls, inaugurating the space, will be an exhibition of all-new work from Paul McCarthy — his first show in his hometown in more than a decade. When L&M was thinking of an artist to launch the space, McCarthy was the first to come to mind, because they wanted to emphasize a California artist. "It was a no brainer," Watson said. "We couldn't be more thrilled, and it promises to be an unbelievable show. It will be all large-scale sculpture, so we'll have some outside, some indoors, all mixed-medium."

After an influx of cookie-cutter gallery expansions over the past five years, L&M in Los Angeles is uninterested in rehashing every New York exhibition. The gallery's lineup will relate back in some of its historical programming, but the space will certainly have a different roster of artists and a more contemporary slant. For instance, Lou will also make a big hometown return later in L&M's exhibition schedule. "It definitely is somewhat L.A.-centric in terms of who we are showing, but we plan to make the programming international as well. We do want to keep an eye on L.A. — that's why we're here," said Sarah Watson.

L&M's Venice space, plus the architecturally focused museum additions like

Piano's Resnick Pavilion, are sure to keep everyone else's eyes on L.A. as well.

