

L&M Arts Arrives in LA

BY DENNIS SCHOLL



Two Women II (1952), by Willem de Kooning.

L&M Arts, in New York City, is internationally known in the art world for its museum-quality shows featuring artists such as Jeff Koons and David Hammons. Building on that success, partners Robert Mnuchin and Dominique Lévy recently opened a second gallery here in LA. Collector Dennis Scholl spoke to Lévy about the space, the gallery's programs and the decision to come to Venice Beach.

DENNIS SCHOLL: Why come to Los Angeles? Why now? DOMINIQUE LÉVY: Los Angeles struck me in the past few years as having one of the most vivid art scenes and creative scenes in America. The energy here is quite similar to the energy I feel in Berlin—or the same way it was after World War II in Paris and New York. We chose to locate in Venice because it's the heart of the creative community. Artists such as Ed Ruscha, Charles Ray and John Baldessari all live and work nearby.

DS: What is different about your approach to the gallery space in LA?

DL: We've tried to build a space that is very much about intimacy, about the quality of light—a space where architecture disappears. It is ambitious in its beauty and design but not its scale. I think the feeling of an indoor/outdoor space is quite unique for any gallery but very important in LA. This space—while extraordinary—completely disappears when the art comes into the building.

DS: What can we expect from the gallery in terms of programming?

DL: Because we are in LA, we had to open with a California artist, so we opened with a Paul McCarthy sculpture show. That will be followed by a de Kooning show and then Thomas Houseago. I think he is one of the best sculptors of the young generation; he has an incredible energy. He will do an indoor/outdoor show. After that, we show the work of Liza Lou, who lives and works in South Africa now. She hasn't had a major solo exhibition in LA in more than 10 years.

DS: You also deal with 19th- and early-20th-century work. Is there a demand in LA for that art, or is it mostly contemporary driven?

DL: I think Los Angeles has a tradition of collecting. Whether there is a demand from the purchase end, I don't know. But we believe there is a demand for more historical shows. We're hoping to establish our presence in LA as a destination where everyone that likes, collects and thinks about art will go.

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PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF L&M ARTS (TWO WOMEN II); JOSHUA WHITE/JWPICTURES.COM (SHIP OF FOOLS, SHIP ADRIFT)



Ship of Fools, Ship Adrift (2010), by Paul McCarthy



Dominique Lévy and Robert Mnuchin