

[EASTSIDE EYE] Beyond the Streets Presents the Superstars of Street Art

 losfelizledger.com/2018/05/eastside-eye-beyond-the-streets-presents-the-superstars-of-street-art

Kathy McDonald Ledger
Columnist



HACER's origami-like "Rabbit, Sitting" at the entrance of Beyond the Streets contemporary art exhibition located north of Chinatown. John Ahearn's "Swimmers" is in the background. Photo by Kathy A. McDonald

Beyond the Streets brings artists who made their marks outside on walls, billboards and subways into a 40,000 square foot north Chinatown warehouse. Leave time to wander through the comprehensive exhibition featuring more than 100 well-known street artists, art activists and graffiti writers. Organized by Los Feliz-based Roger Gastman, one of the curators behind MOCA's 2011 "Art in the Streets," the show explores the evolution of the art form 50 years in the making. "The scene has changed and grown so much since the MOCA exhibition," explains Gastman. "It showcases where these artists with true street credibility are now," he adds.

While many of the artists included are now accepted as mainstream and their creations are often on museum walls, *Beyond the Streets* offers a thought provoking look back at the progenitors of the movement such as Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat—from New York

City's early 1980s downtown art scene—to new works by Shepherd Fairey (Echo Park's Subliminal Projects), RETNA (Known for his signature typography: see it vividly at 1200 N. Alvarado St.) and art prankster Banksy. Gastman is particularly proud of Banksy's participation: entitled *Boy and Dog in a Stop and Search*, it's the anonymous provocateur's first canvas in the U.S. in seven years and salutes Basquiat, while slyly criticizing police tactics.

Several room-sized installations add heft and interactivity to the exhibition: like Mister Cartoon's chapel, a deconstructed ceramic and tile temple by the art collective FAILE or Takashi Murakami's circular 20-foot high canvas *Depicting the Purgatory World*.

Another standout is the recreation of the Venice Pavilion (once a haven for skateboarders), complete with cement picnic tables and graffiti, while the Guerilla Girls' code of ethics for art museums demanding inclusion seems as relevant today as when it was launched 30 years ago.

Leave time for the gift shop featuring poster art and one-of-a-kind souvenirs (LAgo assemblages from Los Feliz's Pat Riot are worth searching out) to spray cans approved by Keith Haring's estate to art-covered Case Study-style art chairs by Modernica. A 500-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

Beyond the Streets runs through July 6th at 1667 N. Main St. Tickets available at the door or via beyondthestreets.com

[EASTSIDE EYE PICK FOR JUNE]

COLA 2018 AND BARNSDALL FRIDAY NIGHT WINE TASTINGS:

Summer is the season to visit Barnsdall Art Park. Currently on view through June 24th, *COLA 2018* at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery showcases the work of 11 artists who were awarded Department of Cultural Affairs grants through a competitive juried process for the creation of new works. Pair a visit on Friday nights (through August 31st) with the 10th season of the popular Barnsdall Friday Night Wine Tastings (21+ only) held on the west lawn of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Hollyhock House. Funds raised help support the Barnsdall Art Foundation. Tickets need to be purchased in advance and tours of Hollyhock House are available for a separate charge during the wine tasting nights. *Barnsdall.org*