

FINE ARTS LA

MUSIC, OPERA, DANCE, MUSEUMS, THEATRE, FILM,
AND GALLERIES IN THE CITY OF ANGELS

Big Kisses, Bird Calls, and Puppy Dogs

January 26th, 2010

This year, the [Los Angeles Art Show](#) made its home at Los Angeles Convention Center. This change of venue provided more space for gallery booths that ranged from contemporary works such as the [Wall Project's](#) Shepard Fairey and Thierry Noir painted walls to landscapes galore — and even more room for project-based installations.

The [Vox Humana](#) on-site art performance presented street artists Mear One, Kofie, Retna, and El Mac who all showed off their talents over the length of the fair on large-scale canvases. And speaking of more room, I wondered how [Sidestreet Projects](#) got one of their [woodworking workshop](#) buses into the fair. These school buses are outfitted with project stations so that elementary school children can make a nuts and bolts washer sandwich and one FUNdred dollar bills, which I am sure we all could use more of these days.

One of my favorite pieces of the art fair was Pablo Uribe's video, *Atardecer* (2008), which screened in a makeshift dark room in the Guest Country program booth's rear. While looking at the other works from the [34° 53' 0" S – 56° 10' 0" W](#) show, I heard animals sounds curiously mix with the ambient art fair noise. When stepping into the screening area, I saw a video of an older man standing before a black background looking as if he were about to perform a gorgeous aria. Instead of sweet notes pouring out of his mouth, the sound of a dog's bark came out. And then the cooing of a bird! The actor was imitating the sounds of native rain forest animals. Willy Rojas' photographs at Barcelona's [Villa del Arte](#) booth depicted miniature figurines interacting with their environment made up of food. Tiny people ski down slopes of salt or a wedge of hard cheese. A man broke the shell of an egg with his sledgehammer while a couple ice skates on an orange hued soup.

Speaking of food, the [Timothy Yarger Gallery](#) presented Jean Wells' *The Giant Kiss* quite literally. The huge chocolate-scented foil wrapped

sculpture demanded a tongue-in-cheek presence while paying homage to Claes Oldenburg's shop.

The [Rebecca Hossack Gallery](#) held quite a few treats, including a gorgeous *papel picado*-esque paper cutting in the shape of a peacock ([Ian Penney](#)), a piece of toast with an image of Shakespeare burnt onto it à la the Virgen de Guadalupe ([Maria Morrow](#)), and also [Phil Shaw](#)'s photographs of brightly colored bookshelves, which was a voyeur's delight to snoop the book titles.

And on my way out, I spotted three Jeff Koon's puppy vases filled with fresh flowers guarding Jean Dubuffet's *Tapis* at the [Jane Kahan Gallery](#). In my mind, they were the guardians of the LA Art Show — a much friendlier and kitsch version of Cerberus.



Pablo Uribe, *Atardecer*, 2008 (Dusk) - video still



Willy Rojas, *Egg*