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EDITED BY GARY BAUM



[THE SCOOP] ART ATTACK!

Photo L.A.? Art L.A.? L.A. Fine Print Fair? L.A. Art Show? Four separate fairs hit Santa Monica this month, promising hefty doses of today's record-breaking art world insanity. First up is the 17th annual Photo L.A. (January 10–13), which has traded up from the Civic

Auditorium to the larger Barker Hangar, into which 76 local and international dealers will cram their most lucrative blue-chip Irving Penns and Walker Evanses, counterbalanced by a slate of emerging avant-garde video artists. Younger sister event Art L.A. follows (January 25–27) at the Civic, with an edgy and experimental collection of exhibitors like Patrick Painter, Regen Projects and China Art Objects. That same weekend, back at Barker Hangar, the L.A. Fine Print Fair is in its 23rd year, with wares ranging from Rembrandt to Rauschenberg. Running right alongside it in the same venue is the much larger L.A. Art Show, which last year drew \$15 million in sales, as well as appearances by bold-facers like Angelina Jolie and Diane Keaton.

Does all of this sound confusing, insular and perhaps just a wee bit inbred? Not to worry. Novices can sign up for a collectors' boot camp to be held during the Art Show, leading the group will be Jori Finkel, a veteran art writer for the *The New York Times* and *Art In America*. "The workshop," she says, "is to help you think about your interests and taste, and how to focus your collection." For \$150 (which includes lunch), the four-hour lecture/consultation provides an insider's primer on both the official byways and unofficial folkways of the scene. One bit of Finkel advice, *gratis*: Those on a budget should consider beginning with prints or photographs—an excellent, lower-cost way to dip in. —Alexis Johnson



ZOOMING IN From top: Benefit of Doubt, Nicola Vinci, 2007; Arrangement, Julia Orser, 2007. Both will be presented in Santa Monica at Photo L.A.



SOLAR STYLE: Totes from Noon.

POCKETS FULL OF SUNSHINE

Eco-consumption takes a techno turn toward green gadgetry with Noon, a line of satchels and totes (\$270–\$430) for men and women that can automatically recharge your BlackBerry while you're on the go via a cleverly designed cross-stitching of solar paneling and discreet adjoining battery packs. The bags are composed of cotton, leather or—natch—hemp. Not ready to retire your Birkin just yet? Try the compact Solio Universal

Hybrid Charger (\$79.95–\$99.95), a portable device recently gifted to the rag hags at L.A. Fashion Week that'll get you through a 40-minute iPod playlist with just an hour's worth of sunshine. Visit www.noonsolar.com and www.solio.com. —Tara Fox

WHEELS OF FORTUNE

L.A.'s burgeoning bike brigades—peopled with the sort of pious greensters who stick with Priuses if they drive at all—have a new toy to covet: the retro-slick Derringer Cycle, a pimped-out moto-hybrid with optional custom tweaks like 22K-gold-inlaid monograms and pinstripping that matches the fine-leather saddlebags.

The bling-to-bang ratio, however, is kept in check by a specially designed pedaling system that allows riders to propel themselves by either foot or engine, depending on their momentary whims. At \$3,500, the Derringer doesn't come cheap, but 28-year-old creator Adrian Van Anz notes that what you'll break at the bank you'll save at the pump, since the cycle gets an unheard-of 180 mpg. 7954 W. 3rd St., L.A., 323.944.0091, www.derringercycles.com. —T.F.



BI-PEDAL CURIOUS? A Derringer Cycle at rest.

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