

Collector's Catalogue 2012: On the Gallery Scene

by ArtSlant Team

August is stealth mode in the art world. Shades are pulled, galleries go dark. Everyone is supposedly relaxing at the shore before the September openings. But we all know that this pause in the art calendar is actually an intense time of backroom re-orgs, private previews and strategic positioning, a time for researching and reconsidering, finishing touches and frantic scrambles. All efforts are pointing towards the big Fall ta-da.

We take it for granted that galleries exist, that they move the sales of art, that their owners and directors are focused on discovering and promoting artists, educating audiences of art-goers, and building relationships among collectors, art watchers, museums and others to support their artists both financially and through exhibition. We recognize the names of historically important dealers such as Ambroise Vollard, Edith Halpert, Paul Durand-Ruel, Sidney Janis, Leo Castelli or Betty Parsons. We know that collectors rely heavily on specific dealers with whom they have sympathetic leanings, and that every artist serious about their career wants to align themselves with dealers of distinction and commitment. Yet we often downplay the critical position that these seekers of talent play in the scene. For without their sweat and tears, expertise, and sometimes unabashed horse trading, the art market as it exists today and the opportunities available to young artists for development and exposure would look far different.

So in the spirit of anticipatory look-sees, the ArtSlant Team has gone straight to a few favorite galleries for recommendations on artists that are either presenting exciting new work this fall, or those that are under-regarded or early in their careers and poised for attention.

We decided to focus first on Los Angeles and San Francisco. With the mounting of Pacific Standard Time, the mega collaboration celebrating the birth of the LA art scene, and the expansion of SFMOMA with the receipt of the Fisher collection, and not to forget the brouhaha over Jeffrey Deitch's controversial directorship of the LA Museum of Contemporary Art, this coastal edge of the art world is certainly making its presence felt.

From Los Angeles:

Opening on September 8th, two Los Angeles-based artists that shouldn't be missed: Sarah Cain's solo exhibition at Honor Fraser, and Tomory Dodge's new work at ACME. Also opening on September 8th is Dimitri Kozyrev at Mark Moore Gallery. Moore says of Russian painter Kozyrev: "this represents an entirely new body of work that both draws on the imagery of his earliest painting, and expands upon his last – highly-acclaimed and successful – LOST EDGE paintings...I feel [this new series] is quite special and moves his painting to an entirely new level."



Dimitri Kozyrev, Last One 18, 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 72 inches. Courtesy Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles.