

# artspotting

## gallery (p)reviews

by Andie Villafañe



### david gallery

David Gallery exhibits contemporary photography, with an emphasis on architectural, large-format photography and American photojournalism. "X-ray" is a collection of digital photographs by British artist Nick Veasey. Using the most advanced X-ray technology, Veasey creates his images in a massive lead-lined room that was once a former cold war radar station. A heavy lead sliding door must be sealed before operating his machinery. High-voltage electricity is sent to a radioactive source that emits X-rays which pass through the subject to create a life-sized image on special film. To get crisp shots, he exposes his subjects with radiation for as long as 12 minutes. The film is then processed on a high-quality scanner (more than 13 feet long) to turn these into digital images. Wearing infrared goggles designed by the military and a special hazmat suit, Veasey works in an industrial environment full of risks. The technology and equipment is complicated and dangerous. Yet out of all this, he creates images of ethereal beauty. His interest in how things work prompted him to X-ray more than 4,000 objects over the past decade. From the largest X-ray ever taken (a Boeing 777 at Logan Airport) to more intimate and familiar images, such as a hobby horse or jacket, Veasey allows us to see what's beneath the surface, revealing the inner beauty of ordinary and extraordinary subjects.

On view until October 18. Tues - Sat. 11 am - 6 pm. 5797 Washington Blvd., Culver City 90232. (323) 939-9069. [www.davidgallery.net](http://www.davidgallery.net)



### niche.la video art

Niche.LA Video Art is a mixed-media and video art gallery that showcases the latest techniques, concepts and creations by digital and video artists. The space features an 18-seat screening room that doubles as a post-production facility for independent filmmakers. Playwright Nic Cha Kim - one of Gallery Row's founders - owns, operates, and curates Niche. Located on the 4th floor of the Spring Arts Tower, the gallery is open exclusively during the downtown artwalk (on the second Thursday of the month) and on Saturdays by appointment only. "Negative," is a broad spectrum of classic images in black and white by Cole Thompson. Eight digital prints along with a slide show of 110 photos are on view on an 17-inch LCD monitor, and in the adjoining screening room. High-contrast images form the basis and inspiration for the Thompson's photographs. He feels that while color records the image, black and white captures the essence of his wide range of subjects. Cole Thompson's photographic art has been in nearly 100 exhibitions and publications and has received numerous awards.

On view Oct. 9, 12 pm - 9 pm. Saturday by appt only. 453 Spring St. #443, Gallery Row. Los Angeles 90013 (213) 247-0002 [www.niche.la](http://www.niche.la)



### couturier gallery

Couturier Gallery promotes artists from Latin America and the U.S., exhibiting painting, sculpture, photography and ceramics by master and mid-career artists. Renowned Mexican sculptor Jorge Marín returns to Couturier with a series of nine bronze sculptures in his fifth solo show at the gallery. "Fracciones" is a compilation of components from sculptures the artist encountered in his studio: incomplete busts, torsos, arms and legs that were each once part of a whole. Marín has created new works with these parts, utilizing curves, spirals, and other geometric forms that have been occupying space for the last decade. The fragments were first cast in wax, then reworked to be re-cast in bronze. These neoclassical figural bronzes measure 22-30 inches in height. Some of these works seem almost Escher-like in three dimensions, as though the artist had created a bust and then erased some of the corners and parts. The partial faces and bodies of the works feel solid and surreal, standing as vestiges of memories, events and experiences from the artist's past.

On view until Nov 1. Tues - Sat. 11 am - 5 pm. 166 N. La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, 90036. (323) 933-5557. [www.couturieryallery.com](http://www.couturieryallery.com)



### edgar varela fine arts

Edgar Varela Fine Arts is dedicated to bringing new and emerging talent into the spotlight, with an emphasis on exhibiting figurative painting and fine art photography. Humanature II is the latest series of photographs by Grace Oh. The stunning compositions the artist creates are the result of her passion for nature and her study of the human form. The photos are derivative from her Naked series a study of light, shape and form shot in studio that captured women in their early twenties just before their maturing process into womanhood. She took this concept out into nature and Humanature I was born. Branching out from figurative to landscapes and seascapes, Grace found a meditative state in photographing trees from the ground up. This is the inspiration behind Angels Forest, an 8x8 ft installation comprised of four mosaic prints. The images in black-and-white prints and one-of-a-kind color Polaroids are soothing and engaging. It is artists intent to reminds us of how simple life can be, by pulling us away from the chaos of city life and into the serenity of nature.

Opening reception: October 25, 7-11 pm. On view until November 16th. Open by appt. only. 542 S. Alameda St., 2nd Floor Los Angeles 90013. (213) 494-7608 [www.EdgarVarelaFineArts.com](http://www.EdgarVarelaFineArts.com)



### box gallery

The Box Gallery exhibits contemporary art in all media, focusing on work that hasn't been shown in Los Angeles. "John Altoon Drawings 1962-68" features figurative drawings and large-scale pastels by one of the key figures of L.A.'s flourishing art scene of the 1950s and 60s. Known for his abstract drawings and paintings, these works reveal an alternate side of Altoon's vision. His exploration of the figure in media and pop culture is evidence of his illustrative talent, and the distaste he had for society. In the Advertising Parodies series, Altoon pulls text from commercial advertisements to create works of satire that reflect his disapproval of the exploitation of the female form to sell product. He continued to explore the female form, but in a more erotic context in his Cowboy and Indian series and in his Animal series. The drawings from the Object series depict genitalia dissociated from the body, exploring fear of castration, and suggesting that human identity is represented by its sexual organs. These controversial pieces - done towards the end of Altoon's life - blend sexual curiosities with comical interplay. This is the first solo showing of his work in Los Angeles in 20 years.

On view until Oct 18. Wed-Sat, 12 pm - 6 pm. 977 Chung King Road in Chinatown. 90012. (213) 625-1747. [www.theboxla.com](http://www.theboxla.com)

