

Hollywood's Big Art



MODERN MEDICINE
Collector and UPN
exec. Valentine, with a
medical background

Deal

A hot young crop of Los Angeles artists is spawning a feeding frenzy among the city's mogul-collectors BY PETER PLAGENS AND CORIE BROWN

EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, the fledgling contemporary-art dealers at 6150 Wilshire Boulevard—just west of the L.A. County Museum of Art on the old “Miracle Mile”—gather in the courtyard outside their cluster of tailored, track-lighted white boxes to enjoy a casual barbecue. These days too many potential customers come by to leave the galleries in the hands of weekend receptionists. There's a steady stream of hipsters and Saturday strollers, but often the sign-in books read like rosters of Hollywood power. As often as not, the black Mercedes of UPN network head Dean Valentine pulls into the adjacent parking lot, sometimes with power broker Michael Ovitz in tow. This is where the rubber meets the road in L.A.'s burgeoning art scene. It's a fusion of a new crop of weirdly clever young artists who've mustered out from the market-savvy art departments at UCLA, Art Center College of Design and the California Institute of the Arts and the showbiz billionaires and millionaires who are plowing through them like whales through plankton—actually *buying*. Pioneer “6150” dealer Marc Foxx, one of the hippest-to-Hollywood young gallerists around, says, “Out here one powerful person does something, then another wants to and pretty soon they all want to.” He adds with satisfaction, “Every major studio is represented in my client base.”

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COOL CROWD

Adler's 'Whatever Happened to Amy?'; Appel's 'Interior With Screen'



Object, "Dean sees a piece he likes and he breaks out in a sweat."

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GETTING IN ON THE SCENE

(Clockwise from above) Magnate Norton with Dingle's 'Girl With the Dresspole,' Prieto's cartoony 'Lucky Strike,' Owens's untitled parody of abstraction, collector Ovitiz at home in Brentwood



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Mission to Mars

Making Her Move

The Real Insider

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JPL—NASA; STAN HONDA—AFP; BRIAN SMALE

ON THE COVER: It's springtime at the south pole on Mars. If all goes well, the Polar Lander will touch down there this week in a **search for life** on the Red Planet. The mission—and what it means for us on Earth. **ON HER OWN:** The First Lady is moving out of the White House and into the fray of the New York Senate race. As she squares off against Rudy Giuliani, **get ready for the fireworks.** **HIS DAY IN THE SUN:** Richard Scruggs may be **the most powerful man in America you don't know.** A smooth Southern lawyer who waged war on Big Tobacco, he's now targeting HMOs.

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COVER: Mars illustration by Christopher Short. Inset photograph by Peter Morgan—Reuters.

Newsweek

Letters to the Editor should be sent to NEWSWEEK, 251 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-1894. In the U.S. send subscription inquiries to NEWSWEEK P.O. Box 59967, Boulder, CO 80322-9967. NEWSWEEK (ISSN 0028-9604), December 6, 1999, Volume CXXXIV, No. 23. In Canada send subscription inquiries to NEWSWEEK, Inc., P.O. Box 4012, Postal Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 2K1. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 546593. Canadian GST No. 123-321-309. For all changes of address call 1-800-634-6850. For all other inquiries call 1-800-631-1040. Unless otherwise indicated by source or currency designation, all terms and prices are applicable in the U.S. only and may not apply in Canada. NEWSWEEK is published weekly, except for 2 issues combined into one at year-end, for US \$41.08 a year and Canadian \$61.88 a year, by NEWSWEEK, Inc., 251 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-1894. Richard M. Smith, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief; Stephen Fucini Jr., Chief Counsel and Secretary. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. To order reprints (minimum order required: 500 copies) or request permission to publish a NEWSWEEK article, please call 212-445-4870 or fax 212-445-4929. POSTMASTERS: send address changes to NEWSWEEK, P.O. Box 59968, Boulder, CO 80328-9968. Printed in U.S.A.

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Newsweek. 134.23 (Dec. 6, 1999): p78.

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Full Text:

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Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Hollywood's Big Art Deal: A hot young crop of Los Angeles artists is spawning a feeding frenzy among the city's mogul-collectors." *Newsweek* 6 Dec. 1999: 78. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 10 Sept. 2016.

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Gale Document Number: GALE|A57841073

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BY **PETER PLAGENS** 12/5/99 AT 7:00 PM

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