

In museums: Who the curators choose

Contemporary art curators at leading museums declare their opinions about which artists will be remembered by organizing retrospective exhibitions and career surveys. Here's a sampling of what some of the best are thinking:

Baldessari, American conceptualist, Tate Modern, London,

von Bonin, Kenyan-born, e-based performance and installation artist, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2007-08

Bourgeois, French-born, New York-based sculptor, Tate Modern, Pompidou Center, Paris; New York Museum of Modern Art, New York; MOCA, L.A., 2007-08

Pollock, American painter, New York Museum of Modern Art, New York; Pompidou Center, Paris, and UCLA Museum, Los Angeles, 2006-07



McKee Gallery, New York/Hammer Museum
ED (BIG SEA #1), 1969
Vija Celmins

Glas, American graphic artist, 2007-08

Thomas, South African-born, e-based painter, MOCA, L.A., Museum of Modern Art, New York,

and David Weiss, Swiss duo, Tate Modern, London,

The world of art keeps expanding

[Art, from Page E31] and globalization of the art market, the days of a single dominant style are long gone. Despite the proliferation of electronic media, many hip young artists devote themselves to drawing and painting or defy classification by dipping into a mixed bag of materials. The notion that an artist must live in a particular place to be successful is also a thing of the past. If there's such a thing as a prevailing trend, international eclecticism must be it.

"If you talk about local art, you sound like a Luddite," said John Baldessari, a pioneering Conceptualist who has been based in Los Angeles for decades but had his first success in Europe and is still in high demand there. With big museum shows in Germany and Belgium this fall, he's planning a retrospective at the Tate London in 2008.

To see his point and get a fix on contemporary art's big picture, consider the fall openers at Los Angeles area galleries. Painting, sculpture and photography coexist with new media, often in the work of a single citizen of the world who may be a visual storyteller, formal purist or social critic.

Among visitors from abroad, João Louro, a Portuguese impresario said to choose media "as a director selects the musicians for his orchestra," shows paintings and wall reliefs related to the film industry at Christopher Grimes Gallery. Henry Coombes, of Glasgow, exposes violence and domestic distress below the surface of British middle-class life in paintings, sculptures and a video at Anna Helwing. "Sea Change," an international



Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles

'THE STATE (ANDY, 16),' 2006
Jimmy Baker uses highly refined painting techniques to freeze moments from media-saturated contemporary culture.



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American artists based outside L.A. also have a large presence. Tony Oursler, a New Yorker who merges video with sculpture and sound to mesmerizing effect, has dreamed up a history of space exploration in an installation at Margo Leavin. "Spaced," he calls the show, in a witty warning to visitors. Ernesto Caivano, who also lives in New York, has made up a tale about lovers reunited after a 1,000-year separation in a suite of 100 ink drawings at Richard Heller. Hung Liu, who cut her artistic teeth in China during the Cultural Revolution and lives in Oakland, has created a group of paintings based on her heritage for her L.A. debut at Walter Maciel.

"Translation is part of art-making," Liu says, "whether you are working from a photograph or



'SPACED'
Tony Oursler merges sculpture, sound and

theme and organized side-by-side solo exhibitions by 13 artists from Poland, Norway, Germany, Spain, France and the U.S. As Laura Steward Heon, director-curator of Site Santa Fe, wrote in the catalog: "In these postmodern times, the idea that a biennial could encapsulate a tidy overview of the art of a moment or place has been abandoned as hopelessly reductive."

The 2006 California Biennial, opening today at the Orange County Museum of Art, is limited to emerging artists who live and work in the state, but nine of the 36 were born outside the U.S. Their collective vision is a mix of