

modern

MAGAZINE



FALL 2016 / modernmag.com

design decorative arts architecture

From Gallery to Garden

WEST MEETS EAST: ROBERT KUO SELECTS

LOS ANGELES IS A DIFFICULT CITY to navigate, both geographically and culturally, and more often than not is invoked as the under-achieving stepsister of New York City rather than as a creative cultural frontrunner in its own right, despite its undeniable design legacy. This deep-seated bias is steadily changing, however, and an upcoming project at Robert Kuo in New York plans to showcase the very best offerings of decorative art and design from four vanguard Los Angeles dealers who are eager to dispel the misconception.

Robert Kuo Selects: Studio and Found Collections and Represented Artists is on view October 5 through November 21 at Robert Kuo Gallery at 303 Spring Street in Manhattan, organized by Kuo, himself an internationally renowned designer, and Los Angeles-based interior designer Judith Lance. The installation will feature a curated selection of pieces from L. A.'s esteemed J F Chen, Blackman Cruz, Dana John, and Robert Kuo galleries. Original production pieces will stand alongside individual works by artists and designers from the galleries' diverse rosters, most of whom are not yet represented or available in New York City. A thoughtful punctuation of significant vintage pieces will ground the presentation of the new in a historical framework and design lineage.

The display will highlight Los Angeles's unique interdisciplinary approach to art and design, a speculative model that sets it apart by blurring any rigid boundaries between the decorative and fine arts; designers, artists, and dealers easily share and exchange roles, while

galleries, showrooms, and museums are often interchangeable contexts. The exhibition will present vignettes of objects from each dealer, all the work embedded in a single immersive and experiential installation. The Hollywood-driven landscape is nowhere to be seen in this show: L. A. stands alone as a locus of production and creativity exempt from the empty fanfare of celebrity culture. According to Judith Lance, "There is a freedom to experiment and create here. Everything is available in L. A. within a condensed radius in terms of resources and industry; from material to craftspeople, artisans, and fabricators...the palette is unlimited."

robertkuo.com

— Marieke Treilhard



BETTY WOODMAN: IN THE GARDEN

IMAGINE YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE of a 28-acre garden, resting on a long bronze bench amidst the shrubs and trees. Once you enter Betty Woodman's latest exhibition, *In the Garden*, you are immersed in this setting. Hosted by Greenwood Gardens, a historic public venue surrounded by the South Mountain Reservation in Short Hills, New Jersey, the show features six cast-bronze benches designed with exaggerated cut-outs and vine-like armrests that are painted in beautiful earthy colors, a singular bronze table, and two decorated outdoor clay flowerpots.

The exhibition encourages visitors to look, touch, sit, and even lie down on the benches, rather than just viewing them, as in a traditional museum display. "Here she transforms bronze—traditionally a medium of high art—into functional objects intended for use and delight," says Patterson Sims, former director of the Montclair Art Museum and curator of *In the Garden*, about Woodman's exhibit.

In the Garden is one of the world-renowned ceramic artist's first forays into the use of bronze. "Bronze interested me because it is a material that always starts as something else, such as clay or wax. Clay into bronze seemed like a natural step for me to make as I needed something that could go outdoors," she says. Greenwood Gardens has proven to be a great location for sculpture exhibitions. Two years ago it hosted *Art in Nature: A Collaboration of Greenwood Gardens & Studio Montclair*, which featured thirty-nine sculptures by thirty-one artists. With Woodman's unique art-making skills, this installation will surely be just as successful. It is open until November 15. greenwoodgardens.org

— Alexandra Zuccaro

STEFANO PORCINAI PHOTO

DON FREEMAN PHOTO

R O B E R T K U O S E L E C T S

LOS ANGELES STUDIO MADE, FOUND
AND REPRESENTED ARTISTS

J F C H E N

B L A C K M A N C R U Z

D A N A J O H N

R O B E R T K U O

OCT 5 - NOV 21
303 SPRING ST.
NEW YORK, NY 10013

WWW.ROBERTKUO.COM

