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Culture // Art Picks //

ART YOU CAN THROW

AND DRAWINGS OF OWLS AND PLANES

BY CATHERINE WAGLEY

This week, one artist installs multiple hand-knitted replicas of himself in a downtown gallery, and another invites visitors to disassemble his sculptures.

Spilt milk
When he decided to wreck a 60-foot Real Dairy truck on a Utah highway, artist Jeremy Everett had to get government agencies involved. The road closed, and Everett had to convince authorities that all the spilt milk would evaporate. The artist, who refers to the wrecked truck as a "sculpture," filmed it from above and from the side. The resulting video — projected as part of his exhibition "Double Pour" at Wilding Cran Gallery — recalls aerial news footage of brutal accidents. Then, the whole thing begins to seem too perfectly composed to be an accident. The show, which includes photographs and understated paintings, feels like that: a destructive impulse constantly being tamped down by an urge for order. 939 S. Santa Fe Ave., downtown; through Jan. 9. (213) 453-9000, wildingcran.com.

Boys with beer
Luis Flores' sculpture *Speech Acts* consists of four self-portraits of the artist, made to scale with hand-knitted skin, hair and limbs. They're all bearded, stocky and so lifelike, from a distance, you might mistake them for real. Two sit on cinder blocks and are either involved in a tussle or about to man-hug. It's hard to tell. But they're clearly distracted by the other two sculptures of Flores, which are on all fours on the floor, licking a badly painted tan body. This is one of a few such tableaux in Flores' current show at Grice Bench, called "Whatever You

skinny guy who's bleeding from his nose and left eye. Navel-gazing bro culture has gone all wrong. 915 Mateo St., #210, downtown; through Dec. 9. (213) 488-1805, gricebench.com.

Kissing couples, loaded guns
Adel Abdessemed signs his name vertically, along the right-hand side of all his drawings, and this gesture initially makes his work at Venus Over Los Angeles seem naive. There's a wall full of charcoal drawings of owls, and more endearing animals throughout. Keep looking and the scenes become more charged. The show is called "From Here to Eternity," and drawings of couples kissing as if it's the last thing they'll do appear repeatedly. So do planes. A messenger pigeon has dynamite strapped to its back, and two bald figures are about to shoot one another in the head. It's the most muscular show the newly opened gallery has had in L.A.—and the darkest. 601 S. Anderson St., downtown; through Dec. 19. (323) 980-9000, venusovermanhattan.com.

Knocking art over
Everything in Chris Finley's exhibition at Chimento Contemporary can be touched. Some things can even be thrown. This is surprising, given how delicate and carefully arranged the work looks. A small, black bouncy ball balances atop a leaning sculpture assembled from bits of whittled pencils. The sculpture sits on a waist-high pedestal that has a rope coming out of it, and once you've knocked off the bouncy ball and placed the sculpture on the floor, you'll find that the pedestal opens. Inside is a blue ball tethered to the rope. It's meant to be swung. Finley's delicate work transforms into a kind of playground — and the show could look a mess by the time you leave. 622 S. Anderson St., #105, downtown; through Dec. 19. (424) 261-5766, chimentocontemporary.net.

Headlines under water
Dancer/artist Simone Forti wrestles with newspapers on Zuma Beach in a video in "On an Iron Post," her exhibition at the Box. In another, projected in the main gallery, she swims through a murky Minnesota river, wrapped in a handmade flag. The 80-year-old Forti, who trained with Martha Graham, shivers. But nothing about her performance makes her seem frail — she's focused, trying to figure something out about the gap between the political world and the natural one.

book signing

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- Wed. 12/2 **MARY MALLORY & KARIE BIBLE** present & sign *Hollywood Celebrates the Holidays* 7pm
- Thu. 12/3 **LIZ GOLDWYN** discusses & signs *Sporting Guide: Los Angeles, 1897* at 7pm
- Fri. 12/4 **BRUCE BAUMAN** discusses & signs *Broken Sleep* at 7pm
- Sat. 12/5 **LARRY SMITH w/ Piper Kerman** discusses & signs *The Best Advice in Six Words* at 5pm
- Tue. 12/8 **JOANNA DEMERS** discusses & signs *Drone and Apocalypse* at 7pm
- Thu. 12/10 **XMAS DOGS OF BOOK SOUP:** 6 to 7pm Bring your pups in for a dog-centric holiday celebration.
- Fri. 12/11 **JORGE ENRIQUE PONCE** discusses & signs *F*ktory: Vol. 1* at 7pm
- Mon. 12/14 **NIC KELMAN** discusses & signs *How to Pass as Human* at 7pm
- Tue. 12/15 **AMBER TAMBLYN w/ Janet Fitch**, discussing & signing *Dark Sparkler* at 7pm

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