

NoHo Gallery LA holds benefit for Raymond Theatre

Arts community joins together for preservation

By Zachary Gale

Art and theater united on the first Saturday in August when NoHo Gallery LA held a benefit for the Friends of the Raymond Theatre, a Pasadena cultural landmark built in 1919. Originally used as a vaudeville arena, the building's use evolved over the years as a legit theater, a movie theater and renowned concert venue (known as the Perkins Palace).

According to Gina Zamparelli, president of the 7,000 member Friends organization, the historic theater is on the verge of being demolished. She explained they've had a



OIL PAINTING BY FEATURED ARTIST LESLIE MARCUS

seventeen-year battle to preserve the building, which is owned by the City of Pasadena. "We've stopped it from becoming an office building, a modernized nightclub, and a hotel and now we are on to condos."

NoHo's gallery director, Dan DeBevoise, said the philosophy of the gallery and the NoHo Arts community is to "help celebrate, preserve and cherish all art forms...and that the Raymond Theatre an irreplaceable work of art."

And so at this late afternoon event, two art forms merged for a cause.

Numerous visual art genres were displayed at the benefit under the theme "Art Comes Alive," a departure from traditional art gallery receptions.

Genres featured included oil on canvas, wall sculptures, creative photography, sculptures composed of sticks and wood, and art depicting scenes from the Raymond Theatre's orchestra. Music was provided by Scott Detweiler, a singing guitarist who sounded like a mature and soulful Jack Johnson.

The featured artist at the benefit was Leslie Marcus, who utilized a limited palette to create oil paintings with bright colors and an underlying sensual aura. The influence of Marcus' experience as a textile designer for fifteen years is evident through the flowing floral patterns women wear in her paintings.

The NoHo Gallery LA benefit proved entertaining for the appealing variety of art mediums with the pleasant backdrop of acoustic guitar-driven song. Fifteen percent of all art sales were donated to the Friends of the Raymond Theatre.

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NoHo Gallery LA at the Lankershim Arts Center 5108 Lankershim Ave, North Hollywood (818) 761-7784