

ART IN THE CORRIDOR

Big Pictures Los Angeles

New Art Space Joins Washington Boulevard Art Corridor

RENEE MONTGOMERY

The West Washington Boulevard art scene continues to heat up with the opening in May of another alternative art space. Founded and operated by artist/curator **Doug Crocco**, **Big Pictures LA** is a studio and public art space located at 2424 West Washington Blvd., in a former laundry building between Arlington and Western Avenues. BPLA joins the nearby **Underground Museum** at 3508 W. Washington (reported by TNN in

beach and more central location than Highland Park, the popular hot spot for start-up galleries of late. Originally interested in acquiring only studio space, Crocco found that the affordable West Adams' rents meant he could lease a much larger storefront – with ample room for his art practice but also for a public art space with walk-in street access. Crocco was sold on the building's handsome architectural bones, backyard and courtyard, plus the “killer” Arts and Crafts bungalows on surrounding neighborhood streets. The single artist resides in Hollywood with an easy work commute down Wilton Avenue, he explained.

Currently showing at Big Pictures from June 17th - Sept.7 (may be extended) is “**The End of Pictures**“ featuring **Steve Gladstone**, a well-known Bay Area photographer who passed away in 2007. Gladstone is most famous for his Gonzo-style images of famous rock musicians like the

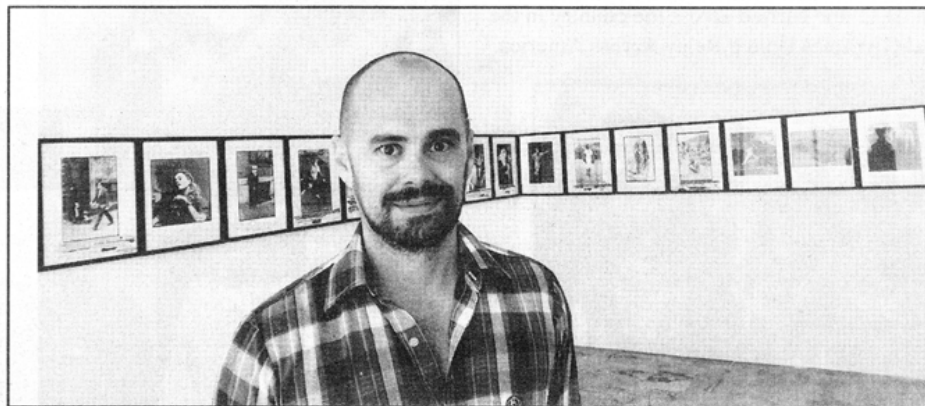


Photo by D.V. Lawrence

ISSUE #39 DEC 2014) and three other recent additions to the Washington corridor: the **Michael Thibault Gallery** (3311 W. Washington), the **Martos Gallery** (3315 W. Washington) and the new **Ochi Projects** (3301 W. Washington. Reports in upcoming issues of TNN). **Doug Crocco** is known for his large scale works (hence the gallery name) which have been shown in New York City, Miami, Boston, Melbourne and Los Angeles, included in a solo exhibition at the **Happy Lion** gallery in Chinatown and in group shows at the **Los Angeles ACME Gallery**. The artist received his MFA from the Claremont Graduate School before working in New York City for several years.

Big Pictures opened in May with an exhibition of **Aramis Gutierrez'** works, which won a review in the Los Angeles Times. Crocco explained to TNN that he shopped all over Los Angeles for a possible studio space before selecting Mid-city/West Adams. Describing this district as one of the last feasible places in the city, the artist/gallerist was especially attracted to it because of its proximity to the

Rolling Stones, John Lennon, and Bob Marley, and for traveling the world photographing iconic events like **The Last Waltz, Burning Man, the Psychedelics Colloquium**, and the **1976 Republican Convention**. To Gladstone, the advent of digital photography meant the demise of quality fine art photography, and before his untimely death at age 51, he hand-colored and marked up several of his favorite photos with poetic narration, now being shown for the first time at the Big Pictures art space.

The Big Pictures Los Angeles gallery is located at **2424 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 90018, www.bigpictures.la, (323) 800-7670**. Regular hours are Saturdays noon – 6 pm or by appointment, however Crocco encourages local residents to knock on the door and he'll respond.

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**Museum of Contemporary Art
Partners with The Underground Museum**

RENEE MONTGOMERY

We value Noah's work and are collaborating with him in realizing his vision of the Underground Museum, stated a senior official of the **Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles** about a new working relationship between the downtown museum and Mid-City's **Underground Museum**. As reported in Dec. 2014 #39 issue of TNN, artist **Noah Davis** established the **Underground Museum** last year on West Washington near Arlington Avenue on a mission to bring a high-end non-profit gallery into an area devoid of cultural outlets. The vibrant Underground Museum offers a cultural center with gallery and performance space, library, shop and sculpture garden -- all with free admission. Since its opening, the Museum has hosted several group exhibitions, performances, films and community wellness programs.

The centerpiece of a new exhibition at the Underground Museum is "**Journey to the Moon**" by **William Kentridge**, which Davis selected from MOCA's permanent collection. According to Karon Davis of the Underground Museum,



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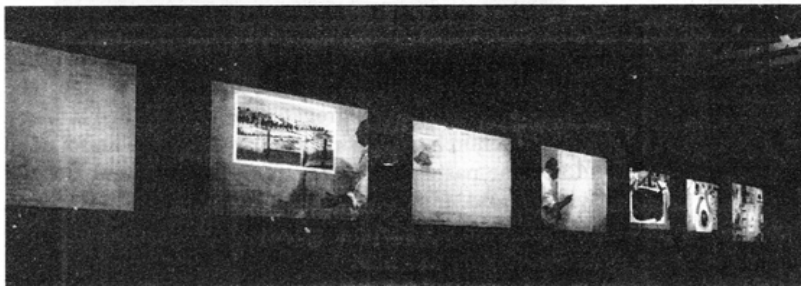
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MOCA Chief Curator Helen Molesworth visited the Mid-City museum last year and the two institutions have since been in discussion about possible interaction. The loan of the Kentridge installation piece is the first exhibition in what will be a three-year partnership between the two museums.

Popular South African artist William Kentridge is found in the collections of **MOMA**, **The Tate Modern** in London and **LACMA** to cite a few, and has been shown internationally, including at such preeminent museums as the **Louvre** and **Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City**. "Journey to the Moon" from 2003 is a composite of film, video and drawings that interrelate collectively in the UM gallery. Previously shown at

MOCA and in Portugal since its 2004 MOCA acquisition, "Journey to the Moon" is based on the film "**Voyage dans la Lune**" by **George Melies**, an early film experimenter. Kentridge makes very exact specifications about the environment in which his temporary installations are shown, and per Karon Davis, neighborhood volunteers helped paint the UM galleries the required color of gray. Consistent with the low-key

MO of the Underground Museum, the exhibition had a soft opening on June 25th and will run until November 15th when it will be followed in January or February 2016 by a second MOCA/UM project.

MOCA's collaboration with the Underground Museum signals the coming-of-age of the West Washington corridor art scene, which has recently seen the establishment of four significant galleries. [See previous page].

Located at 3508 West Washington, Los Angeles, CA 90018, the Underground Museum is open from 2 pm to 9pm Tuesday through Saturday. Contact (323) 989-9925 or email info@theunderground-museum.com