

## Eye on O.C.: Reception opens eyes



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There was something for everyone when the Laguna Art Museum opened four shows at once with a reception celebrating its Spring 2013 exhibitions. "George Hurrell: Laguna to Hollywood," "ex•pose: Allison Schulnik," "John Mason: Blue Wall" and a selection from the Laguna Art Museum's permanent collection drew nearly 600 guests, ranging from an older, more buttoned-down crowd to tattooed hipsters wearing skinny jeans and thick-rimmed glasses.

Guests had drinks in the galleries as they made their way around the three-story museum. Photography from the late George Hurrell was on display in the narrow walkways of the top floor. A Hollywood glamour photographer and Laguna Beach resident, Hurrell's exhibit featured portraits of Hollywood's classic movie stars, including Gary Cooper, Katharine Hepburn and Clark Gable. Captured on gelatin silver print, the photos possessed a crystal-clear shine that spelled glamour and subjects who evoked feelings of nostalgia.

Perhaps the most surreal work belonged to **Allison Schulnik**, who was chosen for LAM's "ex•pose" exhibition, in which curator Grace Kook-Anderson picks three up-and-coming California artists each year and showcases their work in four-month-long shows. While Schulnik's thick, textured oil paintings were well received, her three short claymation films got the most attention. Shown on a loop, the small, dark room was frequently packed with patrons, silently watching the array of creative, haunting transformations of clay figures set to a hypnotic soundtrack.

Executive director Malcolm Warner, who curated the museum's permanent collection showing of works by California artists, seemed pleased while surveying their wide range of themes and techniques. "The museum has a great collection that is quite extensive, and could be used a lot more than we've used it in the past," Warner said. "I wanted to put our best foot forward and show all the stellar items in our own collection."

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/museum-498386-laguna-collection.html>