

January 11, 2012



**AFFORDABLE
ART FAIR LA 2012**

January 18
**BENEFIT
RECEPTION**
5 to 7.30 pm
PRIVATE PREVIEW
7.30 to 10 pm

**GENERAL FAIR
HOURS:**
Jan 19: 12 to 9 pm
Jan 20: 12 to 8 pm
Jan 21: 11 to 8 pm
Jan 22: 11 to 6 pm

Micaela Gallery + Projects (MG+P) presents "PROJECT 1:2012," a group exhibition from January 18–22, 2012 at the Affordable Arts Fair's Los Angeles inauguration with artists Donata Benker, Peter Foucault, Philip Alden Benn, Sidnea D'Amico, Marie-Lou Desmeules, Kathleen Elliot, Scott Kildall, Michelle Knox, Mark Leibowitz, Susan Longini, Lorraine Peltz, Kevin J. Pocock and Lucky Rapp.

DONATA BENKER's landscapes do not connect to the conventional genre of paintings. Her work evades the classical definition of 'landscape' because they do not refer back to an external reality but to themselves. Her understanding of landscape universally includes presence and absence of people, animals, objects, natural and artificial places. Over and over again, apparently recognizable places or objects appear in her paintings and invite the viewer associative access to her figurative world. In describing her work, Benker states, "A landscape is much more than just a place: it is rhythm, movement, color, light. With all its voices, it tells about things I have no words for. My paintings try to approach the space behind the landscape that elude our direct view." Benker's paintings are about the tension between real conditions and their abstractions, between corporeal application of paint and transcending colors, and this is the source of their strength.

Firmly planted in the 21st century, MG+P's program embraces an enriched vernacular provided by contemporary fine art drawing, painting, and sculpture. Exhibitions address ideas, social perceptions and light, sculpture, and video, and are as beautiful to regard as they are engaging. A contemporary fine art online gallery and project-based exhibition platform, MG+P has been an established leader of contemporary fine art glass sculpture, new media, video, painting and drawing since 1997. MP+G encourages artists and collectors to develop personal vision, accept expressive evolution, experiment with diverse artistic persuasions, discover new aspects of creative ability, and develop visual diversity. Located online at micaela.com, MG+P is always open.

IMAGE: Donata Benker. Küchenzelt, 2011. Acrylic, oil on canvas. 19.7 x 27.6 in.