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DOT YOUR EYES



Still in the works at the 356 Mission Gallery is one awesome series of dots. And you can create one of them. Located at 356 S. Mission Road just east of downtown Los Angeles, the large space of this innovative gallery is being put to good use with an exhibition in progress by New York artist Jonathan Horowitz. Called *590 Dots*, this enormously scaled painting is coming together with the assistance of 590 individual participants.

Artist Horowitz created a similar project at Karma Gallery in New York, where 402 dots made up the project. Through October 18th, LA participants are paid – yes, paid – \$20 to spend thirty to sixty minutes creating a solid black circle of approximately eleven inches in the center of an eighteen inch canvas. Paints, brushes, and canvas are all provided. The only rules: no tracing, measuring, or penciling the shape or size of the dot. You're on your own to create the artwork.

Just stop by the gallery during regular exhibit hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm to create your own circle and expression of your individuality. According to gallery director Ethan Swan, while each solid black circle is

essentially similar, they are also unique. “Everyone tries to do a dot that looks like the other dots already on the walls. But each artist’s personality emerges in every representation. Over all, the piece expresses how these dots can be made into a snapshot of the population. In a sense, we are creating 590 individual self-portraits. There’s variation in every single one,” Swan says.

The canvasses are not the only one of a kind piece of art created as a part of this exhibit. The \$20 participation payment is issued as a custom designed check created by Horowitz. “They’re each signed by the artist personally, a hand-designed, laser-printed check. Like the dots themselves, each check is a piece of hand-crafted art,” Swan notes.

With the gallery still in need of dots, you can sign on the dotted wall yourself for the next two weekends; then join in the fun when the completed piece opens in the gallery space, October 25th.

– Genie Davis