

Leitch, Brian D. "Not The Girl Next Door," C Magazine. Summer 2014 p. 125

EMILY MAST

Mast works almost exclusively in performance art, using poetry as the basis for movement. She's made a video based on a series of short texts drawn from her own life "flashing before her eyes," which she then "explodes" beyond personal meaning by staging witty, impromptu "happenings" scattered throughout the galleries using elements from the video. "For example, something I call '10-second sculptures' randomly occur when the performers, three at a time, take lemons and baguettes and come up with a sculpture in—1-2-3-boom!" she explains. "Another is 'Feathering'—five performers pop up and work together to form a tableaux, with several other performers inserting feathers at each point they physically connect. So these are very simple, poetic, 'surprise' gestures, a lot of geometric shapes, and a palette of yellows and ochres—I get obsessed with color. It's meant to evoke a faded '70s photograph, which is where I kind of started." The visitor will experience a live version of what they saw on screen earlier in the exhibition, creating a sense of déjà vu, "but the performed version will vary from the filmed version, just as our memories vary from the real thing, ever evolving as we proceed through life." ON MAKING ART IN L.A.: "You can easily hibernate here, stay in and get your work done. The pressure to be at every opening (as in New York) doesn't exist here."



Emily Mast in her studio in Cypress Park with props from her performance installation "ENDE (Like a New Beginning)."