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Jason Barbagelott

BEST UP-AND-COMING ARTIST (2015)

Emily Mast

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By **Catherine Wagley**

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This past July, mostly nude performers in body paint spent five hours moving around China Art Objects Gallery as part of a performance by L.A. artist Emily Mast. They were posing with one another, one performer slowly squeezing another's face, or wandering around a set that included triangles of tape on the floor and a red rectangle on the wall. All the moves and gestures in this performance, called *Index*, came from Mast's previous performances. These gestures had interested her and she wanted to try them again in a different context. This tendency to revisit and revise her art, which often involves actors or dancers and occurs in front of a live audience, makes Mast's process especially interesting to follow. An artist who always pairs her tasteful visual sensibility with an interest in the uncomfortable chaos of being a person, she's letting her audience watch as she figures out what works.

emilymast.com.

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