

## BLOUINARTINFO

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“Piasa Brings Emerging Artists of Los Angeles to Paris in New Exhibition”

by Rachel Will

Los Angeles has long defended its claim as a cultural capital of the world. From the development of its museums to its cradle of creativity that has catapulted the likes of Chris Burden, John Baldessari, and James Turrell to fame, the city’s artistic institutions are second to none — yet it is often seen in the shadow of other global destinations.

On November 3-9, French auction house Piasa will bring the City of Angels to the City of Light in a sale devoted to emerging artists from the Los Angeles scene shown for the first time in France. Curated by René-Julien Praz, an arts figure with a history of nurturing Angeleno artists, the exhibition will feature work by Joe Reihsen, Matthew Carter, Molly Larkey, Ben Wolf Noam, Joshua Nathanson, and Amir Nikravan, among others.

Titled “Bloody Red Sun of Fantastic L.A.,” the exhibition takes its name from Jake Elliot’s 2014 short story, derived from his favorite Doors’ song. Said Praz, “Once I’d thought of the title, Bloody Red Sun of Fantastic L.A., nothing could seem more fitting. The sheer wealth of images that these words evoke portrays with surgical precision the pathos of this mythical city, where glamour meets vulgarity and highbrow culture, the mainstream. Only in L.A. could kitsch rub shoulders with the sublime and seduction with repulsion: this city truly is a world of contrasts.”

It is the city of contrasts that Praz aims to capture with his curation, selecting artists both established



*Exit Mode*, 2015, Acrylic and oil stick on canvas, 72 x 50”.

and emerging, who have greatly influenced the city’s creative trajectory in recent years.

The show will kick off with an art talk on November 3 at Piasa’s 18 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré headquarters, presenting to Parisians a city that has come into its own creatively.