



# A Group Show at Edward Cella's New Location Allows Painting to Be Itself

Maxwell Williams May 14, 2015 4:35pm



Installation view of "Unbound," Edward Cella Art and Architecture, Los Angeles. Courtesy Edward Cella Art and Architecture.



*Blue Orange 4-S7272 Diamond*, 2015  
Edward Cella Art and Architecture

Perhaps the one thing that unites the paintings in “Unbound” is their size. The show features new large-scale works by eight artists. Highlights include Mara De Luca’s *Ramona 3* (2015), which shows an abstract landscape-like image that resembles a fiery L.A. sunset; Ruth Pastine’s *Blue Orange 4-S7272 Diamond* (2015), a beautiful optical color study in glowing blue; and Spencer Lewis’s *Une étude de femme d’après nature (After Villers)* (2015), a massive canvas propped up by a structure that on the verso reveals a scene straight from an artist’s studio, complete with an art magazine on a paint spattered chair.



*Hollywood Hills 1 (15 minutes from fame series), 2015*

Edward Cella Art and Architecture

The other works in the show serve to underscore the variety in the program, which is a sophisticated group of artists that represent a strange middle ground in painting today. The show as a whole, feels monumental and disorienting, the artists using every inch of their canvases to create abstractions, representational works, and something in between.





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*Wave Painting (Intention Device),*

108 x 72 in. (274.3 x 182.9 cm)

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Edward Cella Art and Architecture

Jeffrey Vallance's work *McCarran* (2015) is a sort of symbol for the



mysterious and appealing at once. A piece of the Caesars Palace casino logo peaks out from behind a swirling, woodgrain-like coat of paint, while a talismanic triangle—painted in white in a way that the triangle drips all the way from the top—sits symbolically on the surface.



*McCarran*, 2015

Edward Cella Art and Architecture

It's an unconventional painting, for sure, but amongst the grouping of artists all creating on different wavelengths, it feels just like another intriguing piece to a puzzle that isn't forced make a picture.

**Maxwell Williams**

*"Unbound" is on view at Edward Cella Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, May 9–Jun. 13, 2015.*

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