

Flash Art

Los Angeles

Hammer Museum and LAXART team up to stage LA art biennial 2012

A team of curators from the Hammer Museum and the nonprofit gallery LAXART are working together to plan a large-scale biennial that will feature artists from the Los Angeles area, reports Jori Finkel for the *Los Angeles Times*. The new biennial, which is scheduled to begin in 2012, will take place at both institutions as well as public sites throughout the city.

"Whether people love or hate them, biennials are very much anticipated, desired and needed by the artistic community. They are our versions of the Oscars or Emmys," says Ann Philbin, director of the Hammer Museum.

The organization of a major biennial exhibition is not uncharted territory for those involved with Southern California's planned new biennial. Museum curator Ali Subotnick has co-organized one edition of the Berlin Biennial. Deputy director Douglas Fogle previously organized the Carnegie International. And since 2001 Philbin has overseen a series of thematic group exhibitions that happen to take place every two years at the Hammer. The founder of LAXART, Lauri Firstenberg, curated one edition of the California Biennial, which has taken place at the Orange County Museum of Art since 1984, though it hasn't always happened every two years.



Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin on the left stands next to artist Cindy Sherman