

THE WEEK AHEAD

March 19—March 25

ART/ARCHITECTURE

Ken Johnson

With the Whitney Biennial safely opened and last weekend's Armory Show closed, this may be the time to get out of town. Los Angeles, where a new nonprofit contemporary art center with a promising future opened last night, beckons. Under the direction of **LAURI FIRSTENBERG**, former director of Artists Space in New York, LAXART will showcase new art and provide a forum for discussion and debate in a space designed by the architect **PETER ZELLNER**. Its inaugural show presents works by **DANIEL JOSEPH MARTINEZ**, whose site-specific works in painting, video, sculpture and public art adroitly combine formal, conceptual and political purposes. A billboard designed by Mr. Martinez broadcasts the message "the fully enlightened earth radiates disaster triumphant" over La Cienega Boulevard (between Venice and Washington Boulevards) through March 27. His exhibition at LAXART can be seen through April 29 at 2640 South La Cienega Boulevard, (323) 868-5893.