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‘Made in L.A.’ at Hammer Museum Casts a Global Eye

By **Jori Finkel**

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LOS ANGELES — The single biggest surprise about the coming edition of “Made in L.A.,” the Hammer Museum’s biennial featuring artists who are locally based, is just how international the exhibition looks.

The museum has chosen 26 artists for the show, which runs June 12 to Aug. 28, and over one-third were born abroad in cities ranging from Beirut, Lebanon (Huguette Caland); to Bilbao, Spain (Laida Lertxundi); to Bogota, Colombia (Gala Porras-Kim); and Bitburg, Germany (Sterling Ruby). Sydney, Australia (Adam Linder); Geneva (Shahryar Nashat); and São Paulo, Brazil (Kenzi Shiokava) are also represented.

According to the show’s curators, Aram Moshayedi of the Hammer and Hamza Walker of the Renaissance Society in Chicago, this focus on the creative value of expatriates or immigrants was not intentional but natural, given the cosmopolitan nature of Los Angeles.

The biennial, which began in 2012, was meant to feature emerging or under-recognized artists. But curators have made a potentially distracting exception for Mr. Ruby, whose experimental sculpture already appears in museum collections and galleries such as Gagosian and Hauser & Wirth. “Good art is good art,” Mr. Walker said, adding that the curators would focus on a never-before-exhibited series involving welding tables.

The 2016 biennial also features some projects outside the museum walls. The writer Aram Saroyan, known for his ultra-minimalist poetry, offered up the exhibition’s subtitle: “Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only.” And the photographer Todd Gray’s project involves a sort of living memorial: he plans to wear the clothes of his late friend Ray Manzarek, the founding member and keyboardist with the Doors, for the full length of the exhibition.