

REGEN PROJECTS

Dambrot, Shana Nys, "You Are What You Build," LA Weekly, November 2, 2012

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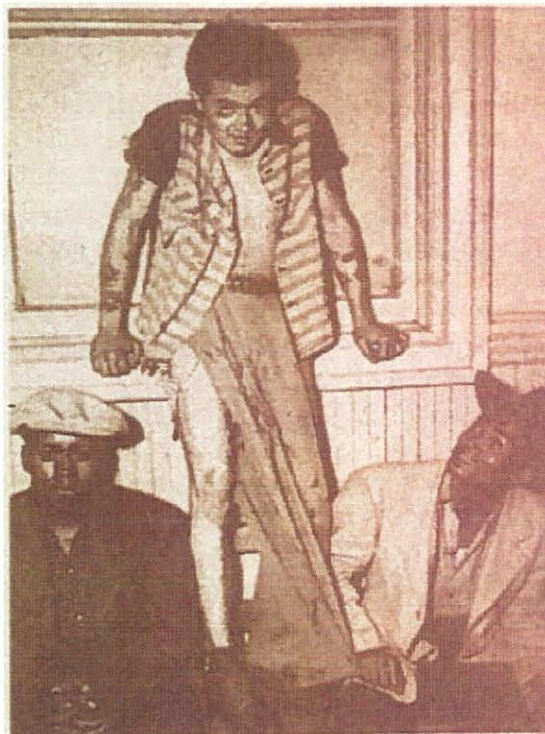
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GALLERIES

You Are What You Build

Avant-garde contemporary art house Regen Projects could not have made a more perfect choice for the first proper solo exhibition at its impressive new space than **Abraham Cruzvillegas: Autodestrucción 1**. Born in Mexico but a relentless international traveler, Cruzvillegas mostly works in sculpture and installation, frequently on a sprawling scale. Although also a painter and filmmaker, he is primarily motivated by a deep affection for recontextualizing found, quasi-industrial and commercial objects such as machine tools, soda bottles, shipping crates, denim and newspaper, fashioning them into biomorphic structures and room-filling, abstract cityscapes (which also contain his video, drawing and painting). Still, he'll have his work cut out filling the white-box cathedral of the Michael Maltzan renovation — itself something of a repurposed industrial object. The gallery's unusual location in a fringe part of West Hollywood further suits Cruzvillegas' sensibility, in that he frequently addresses the subculture of unincorporated communities and their innovative, outsider-flavored strategies for self-constructing neighborhoods from cast-off materials of nearby development. He also is in the habit of drawing direct inspiration from

the music, art and culture of wherever he is working at the time — in this case, Hollywood. He calls it *Autoconstrucción*, and it has to do with viewing one's surroundings as self-portraiture. It works on so many levels. *Regen Projects, 6750 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hlywd.; Sat., Nov. 3, 6-8 p.m.; exhibit runs Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., thru Dec. 22; free. (310) 276-5424, regenprojects.com. —Shana Nys Dambrot*



Abraham Cruzvillegas at Regen Projects



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