



"Venus XIII (you burn me)" by Mary Heebner.

Santa Barbara's Mary Heebner Brings Venus Paintings to L.A.

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On occasion, we Santa Barbarans must share our stellar artists with the rest of the world. One such artist, Mary Heebner, offers her work up to the city of Los Angeles at Edward Cella Art + Architecture this fall with *The Venus Paintings*, on exhibit November 2–December 28.

Heebner's large format collages, depicting a reimagined take of the classic Venus myth, explore themes of embodiment and femininity that bring these poetically iconic images into the contemporary landscape. She crosses cultural, historical and geographical variations of the tale, using paper and paint to create an almost immersive and organic experience for the viewer while preserving the fierce feminine sexuality personified by the tales and images of Venus. Work by William Dole will also hang in a concurrent exhibition, depicting the similarities and vast differences that arise across different collaging techniques.

This exhibition is certainly worth the short drive to L.A., as Heebner's works, part artifact and part interpretive abstraction, create an atmosphere of modernity and history, exploring the theme of the body as a vessel for meaning, spirit, psyche and metaphor. Check out more information [here](#).

—Taylor Micaela Davis