



Shepard Fairey's *Peace Elephant*, 2011, in progress at the public library in West Hollywood

## "ART IN THE STREETS" EXPANDS IN HOLLYWOOD

July 27, 2011

Three artists from the **Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art's** "Art in the Streets" exhibition have teamed up with the city of West Hollywood to paint a series of murals on the walls of the new public library's parking lot on Melrose and San Vicente Boulevard. LA MOCA director **Jeffrey Deitch** toured the library while it was under construction and thought its walls would make "an ideal extension" of the exhibition, according to the [Los Angeles Times](#).

On one section, local artist [Shepard Fairey](#) painted his largest work to date, *Peace Elephant*, a 70 x 106 ft. black, red and yellow mural of a dove and an elephant holding a flower in its trunk. He and artist **David Wiseman** are also planning works for inside the library. Fellow Los

Angeles-based street artist [Retna](#) has painted scrawling blue text that supposedly consists of quotes from author **Salman Rushdie**, though the artwork is written in code. Elsewhere, [Kenny Scharf](#) painted a giant cluster of his signature smiley heads.

Despite police and public [outcry](#) that the exhibition is inspiring a surge in graffiti in Los Angeles, the city approved the project (MoCA selected the artists) and is paying for a protective anti-graffiti coating on the graffiti art. The museum and the artists are supplying the rest of the funds. Fairey took a wry approach to any possible controversy, writing on his website,: “Calm down taxpayers. . . . I was not paid to do the mural and paid for my own supplies and labor. Thanks for the wall space though.”

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