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BRAVA!

Donna Perlmutter says it's a glorious week in operaland

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Saturday promises to be just another evening for Santa Monica's arts community, complete with Malaysian food, cocktails, live music – and, of course, naked people.

At Santa Monica's DCA Fine Art, eight artists, including **Alejandro Gehr** and **Katina Zinner**, will each draw and paint three nude models in front of a live audience. The event – dubbed **Live Draw!** – will also feature music by DJ S.I.M.O., and benefits the Santa Monica Alternative Schoolhouse, a local alternative school led by working artists.

DCA Fine Art founder **Della Cabral** explains the creation of the event was inspired by a desire to re-incorporate the general public into the artistic community.

"Some people think that if they can't draw, they aren't creative," she says. "I believe that everyone is creative. I really want Live Draw! to be an invitation back into the creative process."

For Zinner, Live Draw! will mark the first time she has ever painted models in front of a live audience.

"I think that it's a very original way to present art to people who are not as familiar with it," she says. "And it's an opportunity to bring it in an environment that is very eclectic."

But Zinner also expects the experience of drawing with people and music in the background to be something of a pressure cooker.

"You already have to be really focused when drawing a model," she says. "Now it's magnified by all the people and the music. I think it's a very intense realm in which to create."

Cabral adds that she hopes to foster an atmosphere of immediacy.

"People are going to be buying these sketches right off the pad," she says. "Everyone is really going to be a part of this art."

What really prompted Zinner's participation in the event was its cause, SMASH.

"This [school] gets kids away from the video games," Zinner says. "It gets them outside into nature and gives them an opportunity to create."

According to Cabral, 15 percent of the proceeds will be donated to SMASH, the K-8 school that her youngest child attends.

"It really places the responsibility of the curriculum back onto the child," she enthuses. "They aren't studying archaic, fossilized history. It's about what's going on today."

—Alexander Comisar

Live Draw! Sat., 7-10 p.m. \$45 pre-sale, \$55 at door. DCA Fine Art, 3107 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310) 770-2525. Dcafineart.com.