

CRITIC'S PICKS: LOS ANGELES by Eve Wood



DARKER... I'LL TRY #3. 2013, **Steven Hull**
 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, WOOD, BAMBOO, AND PLASTIC, AS INSTALLED: 8' 9" x 10' 37"
 PHOTO: GRANT MUDFORD

For decades **Steven Hull's** work has been marked by a riotous comic sensibility, as though life itself were a meditation on the absurd; yet beneath the exacting wit and garish colors, one can clearly discern a passionate and committed mind at work. Hull has long been a "multi-faceted practitioner and curatorial figure" on the Los Angeles art scene and has been exhibiting at Rosamund Felsen since 1998. His projects are diverse and far-reaching and include long-term collaborations with other artists, musicians and writers, his own practice as an artist seemingly intensified by his interest in and support of other artist's efforts. In 2010, Hull co-founded Las Cienegas Projects with a curatorial program that

focuses mostly on more esoteric work and community participation. Working in both painting and sculpture, as well as assemblage and collage, Hull's exhibitions are vast multi-media experiences that utilize rich cultural symbolism like the skull, the Sherman tank, or a simple cartoon devil's face. Many of these images are psychologically charged and reference childhood constructions like train sets or toy cars, though Hull reconfigures these images toward a more earnest, authentic and self-reflexive sensibility that is at various turns strongly influenced by Mexican folk art and religious artifacts.