

# ACE GALLERY LOS ANGELES

I N S T I T U T E O F C O N T E M P O R A R Y A R T

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## ***THE ARTLESS DRAWING: NEIL DENARI, 1982-1996***

IN ASSOCIATION WITH UCLA  
ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

EXHIBITION EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

Ace Gallery presents the second exhibition in partnership with UCLA Architecture and Urban Design exploring the drawings of Neil Denari – a leading figure in design innovation - curated by Sylvia Lavin with Hi-C, a collaborative group of UCLA doctoral and design students focusing on scholarly research and critical approaches to contemporary design.

*The Artless Drawing* focuses on the graphic work of Neil Denari produced between 1982 and 1996, just before digital design became ubiquitous. Although painstakingly made by hand, the perfectly rendered drawings appear to have been generated by a machine rather than by an architect seeking artistic expression. The exhibition showcases the extraordinary range of manual techniques Denari used to create what is now his signature style and reveals that Denari made these drawings less in the manner of an artist or draughtsman than in that of a human computer.

Neil Denari is principal of Neil M. Denari a Los Angeles based practice, with a satellite office in New York, dedicated to exploring the worlds of architecture, design, urbanism, and global cultural phenomenon. “At NMDA, the world is... expansive, ergonomic, communicative, deep, full yet economic, unique, and about life and beauty.” NMDA considers architecture to be capable of many things, not only for satisfying existing demands, but also for inspiring new desires. Since 1988, NMDA has worked across many continents at all scales. Their research is focused on the proximities and relationships between the body and the eye and the designed world.

Former Director of SCI-Arc from 1997–2001, recipient of the United States Artists Fellowship in 2009, and the Ralph Recchia Award and the Samuel F. B. Morse Medal for architecture in 2002 from the National Academy of Design in New York for distinguished work in the field, Neil Denari is a UCLA Architecture and Urban Design Professor. His work has been included in the exhibitions “Glamour” at The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2004 and “Skin

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and Bones”, at The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles in 2006, among others. Current projects include WME Entertainment Offices and Theater, Beverly Hills; High Line 23, New York; NeuCity Housing, Nashville; and a series of branches for Mitsubishi Bank of Tokyo, among others. He lectures worldwide and is the author of *Interrupted Projections* (TOTO), *Gyroscopic Horizons* (Princeton), and *Speculations On* (AADCU) forthcoming in 2010.

Sylvia Lavin is Professor and Director of Critical Studies and M.A./PhD programs at UCLA Architecture and Urban Design. Lavin is a widely published historian and critic, curator and internationally invited speaker and educator. Lavin is Director of Hi-C, a program in which UCLA doctoral and design students collaborate on exhibitions, symposia and publications that establish a forum for wide discussion of experimental work in architecture. Lavin’s forthcoming books *The Flash in the Pan and Other Forms of Architectural Contemporaneity* (MIT Press) and *Kissing Architecture* (Princeton University Press) will be released in 2010.

The UCLA students involved in this exhibition include: Anas Alomaim, Kaveh Arbab, Vuki Backonja, Tim Callan, Rebecca Choi, Sergio Miguel Figueiredo, Sarah Hearne, Mira Henry, Daniel Hesketh, Jamie Hughins, Francis Ireifej, Bruno Juricic, Esra Kahveci, Scott Kepford, Dina Kronic, Magdalena Stolarczyk, Zheng Tan, Ian Christopher Thomas, and Claudia Ziegler.

For further information or visual materials please contact  
Ace Gallery Los Angeles at 323.935.4411 or email [acegallery@acegallery.net](mailto:acegallery@acegallery.net)  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM