



Focal Point

Centerpiece Gallery both complements and expands on CityCenter's collection of fine art.

BY MATT KELEMEN



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Robert Rauschenberg's *L.A. Uncovered #10*, screenprint, 1998; Centerpiece Gallery; Tim Bavington's *One*, 2008.

I'm playing an impromptu game of "If the place were burning down, what would you save?" with Centerpiece Gallery director Nicole Moffatt. She's partial to a Richard Misrach landscape photo, *Battleground Point #8*, hanging on a gallery wall. I want to rescue the *Untitled (A Sea of Grinding Tectonic Plates)* 42-by-60 Raymond Pettibon color lithograph behind her desk at the back of the CityCenter space.

Many of the names featured in the 2,500-squarefoot space are part of the property's Fine Art Collection, curated by Michele Quinn, of Michele C Quinn Fine Art Advisory (MCQ); among works by Claes Oldenburg and Robert Rauschenberg are books on Jenny Holzer, Antony Gormley and Aria architect Pelli Clarke Pelli.



FALL FASHION ISSUE



Much of the inventory consists of postwar to contemporary prints, multiples and objects from vendors with whom Quinn has had long-lasting relationships. “We’re really looking at a certain time range, and look for people who are working [in the same period], sharing the same ideas, the same concepts of how they relate to space, how they relate their concept onto paper or photography,” explains Moffatt.

Quinn, who relocated to Philadelphia after a high-profile (and ongoing) career in Las Vegas, was asked by MGM executives last fall to create a gallery that would be symbiotic with the artwork she collected for CityCenter. The buildout began in mid-November, and by December CityCenter had both a dedicated gallery and a starting point for touring its public art.

“We know who built this place and we know the artists in it because we’ve been involved with them intimately,” Moffatt says. “You can figure out who these people are and how they’re relevant in the world today, and why they make sense to be here.”

But Centerpiece doesn’t exist to showcase just the works of Richard Long, Frank Stella, Tim Bavington and company. Along with the extensive selection of limited-edition prints from non-collection artists such as Jonathan Borofsky (*Human Structure #3*) are furniture multiples and home décor. Tables by Franz West (funky), James Hyde (futuristic) and Yves Klein (fuchsia) share floor space with a rug by Crystals interior designer David Rockwell. Shelves display napkins by Helmut Jahn, selfportrait towels by Kehinde Wiley, Lawrence Weiner wineglasses and a Siamese Bird vase by Yeni Mao. “Just a mix of things out in the world that you don’t see in Las Vegas or on the West Coast unless you’re privy to it,” Moffatt offers.

Vegas-based artists such as Bavington and Shawn Hummel—both featured at Aria—get some love from Centerpiece, with Hummel having kicked off the first “Locals Only” exhibition, a rotating show featuring a different local artist each time. “We thought it would complement what we do and how we show,” she says. “We loved having the locals at MCQ, and we wanted to bring it back over here and just keep supporting the Las Vegas community.”