

# Big Rewards at Destination Gallery LA Louver

By [DECORATI](#) | Published: JUNE 29, 2011

At the prestigious destination gallery [LA Louver](#), the rewards are great this summer. Los Angeles-based artist Tom Wudl offers engaging, jewel-like paintings in Venice Beach. Exploration of Buddhist scripture is the vehicle for Wudl's work, which expresses content and imagery related to the Flower Sutra. Paintings on vellum open to the viewer, offering an understanding of interconnectedness through image and technique.



Jewel Peak by Tom Wudl

These intimate gems of complexity are filled with interconnected iconography such as eyes and the playing card suit – clubs, both replicating the petals of flowers. The barely visible club suit motif becomes a subtle repetitious element drawing to mind the act of meditation creating a visual mantra.



Wonderful Eyes by Tom Wudl

His extensive teaching practice informs his paintings demonstrating patient and deliberate brushwork connected to the lineage of art making from tanka-painting traditions in Asia to medieval manuscript painting in western art. Wudl, a native of Bolivia immigrated to the United States in 1958. After studies in Los Angeles and Europe, where he was influenced by late Medieval and early Renaissance paintings, he became a painter. Wudl balances his studio practice with a long career teaching art.



## Universal Virtue by Tom Wudl

The artist is quoted, “There was a time when the world was small and man knew his place in it.... Today, space is expanding beyond the reaches of the imagination.” His global understanding aides his practice, creating his role as a visual bridge in our interconnected world.



In the larger gallery we see a tightly curated exhibition of works by gallery artists including Tony Bevan and Michael McMillen. This exhibition both surprised and excited the viewer with the formal connections drawn between Bevan and the adjacent solo show by Wudl. Both build organic forms with linear petals, however in different ways. The McMillen set-like sculpture creates a sense of place in film focused California, exhibiting a clear connection to model building for that industry.



Tony Bevan



Michael McMillen

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