

FABRIK

ART. DESIGN. ARCHITECTURE. FASHION.

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WORDS PETER FRANK

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FABRIK ART PRIZES

In the Autumn of 2010 Fabrik Magazine initiated an international art competition. Its purpose is to help advance the careers of artists all over the world, and similarly to bring attention-worthy art to the attention of an ever-growing and ever-hungry audience. The response to the magazine's call was even better, in volume and in quality, than had been anticipated. As can be seen from the extensive list of Honorable Mentions, dozens of eminently qualified artists honored us with their entries. The eventual winners, submitting from Athens and Seattle, London and New York, Toronto and California, distinguish themselves in a wide variety of media and styles; but so do the painters and sculptors, installation artists and conceptualists, video artists and digital artists who made Honorable Mention, or came close to doing so. Exhausting as the job of jurying was, it has rekindled the editors' faith in the artistic spirit and optimism about artistic practice in at least the near future. We look forward eagerly to next year's competition — and, in light of this one, to the rest of this year's art season, here in Los Angeles and abroad.

*Third Prize Winner***Deborah Martin (Los Angeles, CA)**

Deborah Martin is blessed with a technique that allows her to portray space and the things in it with a quavering, almost feverish luminosity as she trains her eye on all forms of the American outback. Martin is probably best known for her paintings of the blasted communities that surround the Salton Sea. But she paints other parts of the California desert as well, and has also painted the rural American south, the nether parts of Cape Cod, and other places in this country where society dissolves and individuals find solitude whether or not they seek it. What interests Martin - whose pictures are full of human presence but devoid of humans - is not the mundane or the abject, but how habitation seems only to amplify the emptiness of the land itself. In this respect she extends Edward Hopper's lonely realms into the context of "new topographic" photography.



SLAB CITY CHAIRS, ©DEBORAH MARTIN