

TIMEOUT LA

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NICOLAS PARTY HAS TURNED HAUSER & WIRTH INTO A PASTEL WONDERLAND

by Michael Juliano



The typically white walls of Hauser & Wirth's lofty south gallery have been painted over in luxurious blues, deep reds and playful pinks, sprinkled with pastel canvases inspired by lush forest undergrowth. Temporary floor-to-ceiling walls have pinched the Arts District gallery into cathedral-like chambers, with epic murals of waterfront caves staring each other down through faux marble archways. At the center of it all, there's a gallery-within-a-gallery that houses a single painting from the 1600s.

This is no dry retrospective of Old Master painters, though; this is a playful collection of colorful works from contemporary painter Nicolas Party. The fast-rising New York-via-Switzerland artist has crafted a pastel wonderland of boldly hued landscapes, portraits and still lifes in his L.A. solo debut, "Sottobosco," which runs February 13 to April 12.