Views LOS ANGELES by Andrew Berardini

Andrew Berardini is a critic, writer and curator based in Los Angeles.

"A Painted Horse by Joe Sola (with Matthew Chambers, Sayre Gomez, Rudy K. Slobeck, and others)" Tif Sigfrids 11.7. – 8.8.2015



Riba is miniature horse, alive, sweetly natured, and very well cared for. Painted in exotic abstractions, this star equine attraction wandered the house of an imaginary collector, all a piece by Joe Sola. Works by a coterie of LA artist-colleagues hung on the wall, but the real story was Riba. Like the animal oddities and creatures from across the sea in roadside attractions, this gentle horse and its curious pelt trigger a thrill of the weird.

This is not the first spatial motherfuckery Sola's done with Tif Sigfrids. His first show at the gallery fit precisely into her ear. Stepping through the front door into an empty storefront, you would gingerly step into the back office. Tif would finger her hair behind her ear for you to better peer into it. If Sol LeWitt wrote "Sentences on Conceptual Art," it was Californian John Baldessari who sang them. Here we have another West Coast artist taking a cue from international plodders less amusingly breaking the white cube, but Sola takes it beyond with a particular absurd and sophisticated humor.