



PAINTING THE TOWN  
Art collector Nino Mier  
at his namesake gallery

ART NEWS

# OUTSIDE THE LINES

AESTHETE NINO MIER SHAKES UP THE GALLERY SCENE.

By Michael Slenske

Portrait by Melissa Valladares

When Austrian-born, L.A.-raised gallerist **Nino Mier** was 17, he spent three months on a private Brazilian island belonging to A-list plastic surgeon Ivo Pitanguy. Though he had dreams of becoming a top doc, Mier ultimately ditched pre-med to study hotel management and painting. But after a dispiriting solo debut back in L.A., he gave up on art and in 2004 joined forces with his mother to launch Foodlab, a West Hollywood catering company-restaurant now frequented by the likes of Sacha Baron Cohen and Michelle Monaghan. During that time, Mier started collecting art, which led to opening an art advisory firm after friends kept asking him for the same things he was buying. "I felt like I was not really able to navigate an artist's early career without context and direction," says Mier. So he decided to create his own gallery. The 1,000-square-foot space opened this February one block west of Foodlab with the United States debut of Cologne-based painter Jan-Ole Schiemann. By giving local shows to rising Rhineland talents and new opportunities to overlooked or underappreciated American artists such as L.A.'s Eve Fowler (through July 3), Mier's openings have become regular draws for serious artists and dealers. Recent exhibitions had Jim Shaw, Mark Grotjahn and David Kordansky in attendance—all of whom seem to love how focused his program is out of the gate. "Now I want to develop and show badass artists who matter and will matter," says Mier, who is currently in the early stages of working on a series of outrageous ads with the provocative Dutch photographer Matthias Vriens-McGrath. We can't wait to see what he comes up with next. *1107 Greenacre Ave., L.A., 323.498.5957, miergallery.com*