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John Outterbridge
THE RAG FACTORY

Text and photos by Joe Lewis



John Outterbridge, *The Rag Factory*, 2011, installation view

LAXART, the Los Angeles nonprofit space, unveils *The Rag Factory*, a new site-specific installation by the legendary Los Angeles artist and community activist **John Outterbridge** (b. 1933), in his first Los Angeles solo in 15 years. New attention is showering upon Outterbridge and his colleagues in the California Assemblage movement of the 1960s and '70s -- including **Mel Edwards**, Senga Nengudi, **Noah Purifoy**, **Bettye Saar** and **David Hammons** -- thanks to new book-sized exhibition catalogues like *L.A. Object & David Hammons Body Prints* (Tilton Gallery) and *Now Dig This! Art & Black Los Angeles 1960-1980* (Hammer Museum).

It's been a long time coming. A teacher and mentor to many younger artists, Outterbridge was director of the Watts Towers Art Center during 1975-1992. The accompanying people photographs were taken by **Joe Lewis** at the opening of the exhibition, "The Rag Factory," Sept. 10-Oct. 22, 2011, organized by guest curator Kris Kuramitsu for LAXART.

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