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Xpress Reviews—First Look at New Books, November 11, 2011

Cannon, Steve & others. **L.A. Object & David Hammons Body Prints**. Tilton, dist. by D.A.P. 2011. 424p. ed. by Connie Rogers Tilton & Lindsay Charlwood. illus. index. ISBN 9781427613745. \$65. FINE ARTS A sprawling and ambitious book, this title examines the work of David Hammons, Noah Purifoy, and other black Los Angeles-based artists who worked with found objects in the 1960s and 1970s. Although these artists have been largely written out of received art historical narratives on the basis both of their ethnicity and their geography, this book makes a forceful case for their importance. In her introductory essay, Kellie Jones (art history, Columbia Univ.) argues that by combining avant-garde, performative, and conceptual techniques to engage the political struggles of 1960s Watts, Hammons and others rejected the traditional cultural politics of representation and affirmation and expanded "simple 'notions' of what 'black art' could be." Verdict Full of not only scholarly texts but a wealth of engaging primary documents—including transcribed oral histories and rarely seen photographs, exhibition flyers, and installation shots—this book will appeal to a broad readership. A wide-ranging and informative study that will hopefully stimulate further interest in the largely neglected subfield of West Coast and multicultural contemporary art history.—Jonathan Patkowski, CUNY Graduate Ctr.

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