

Meyer, Megan, "Light and Space," *C Magazine*, September 2014

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FROM TOP An exhibit at David Kordansky's former space. Mary Weatherford at LA><ART standing beside *Ruby I (Thrifty Mart)*, 2012. *love forever (cave) for MW*, 2012, LACMA.



Light and Space

Artist **Mary Weatherford** is having a moment. And if the fact that her luminous Flashe oil paintings appear in both LACMA's new group show, "Variations," and MoMa's forthcoming December survey, "The Forever Now," doesn't convince you of this, then perhaps the raves she received for her recent solo show, "Los Angeles," at the David Kordansky Gallery (see "New Digs," below) will. Need further proof? At press time, she was unreachable at an artist retreat in Mexico. And the surest sign that someone is in demand is that they're off the grid.

The Ojai native has been prolific since the '80s, but it was her 2012 "Bakersfield Project," a series of abstract, color-swathed canvases that take cues from modernist Helen Frankenthaler and are finished with neon strips of light, that electrified the art world. The pieces prompted Robert Faggen, Claremont McKenna College's

director of the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies, to tap Weatherford for an on-campus installation: a 117-by-234-inch mural (due to be christened with an open-to-the-public event on Sept. 16). Weatherford began by steeping herself in her setting. "It's a long process of assessing the place and reacting to it," Faggen observes. "She's playing with paint and light in a way that's magical—the neon is not about nostalgia," he adds. Indeed, for her, it's the future that's bright. claremontmckenna.edu.

