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—Channing Hansen

MATERIAL WORLD
Artist Channing Hansen sits among some of his signature knit pieces in his Silver Lake studio.

PHOTO BY ANNE TRET

KNIT MOVES

Channing Hansen fuses technology and art for fascinating and unexpected results.

Crowned one of L.A.'s most exciting artists, Channing Hansen is having more than a moment. A prominent player at the Hammer Museum's *Made in L.A.* exhibit, the native Angeleno is newly represented by Marc Selwyn Fine Art, who will present his work at the Art Los Angeles Contemporary in January.

Hansen's "paintings" give new meaning to the word, as they are actually created with hand-dyed fibers that he meticulously knits and stretches onto wooden frames. Compelling for many reasons, one standout is the algorithm he created to guide his practice. As he works, the computer generates not just color, but the fibers, textures and patterns of each piece. "As [choreographer and musician] Simone Forti so beautifully suggested to me once, the algorithm is my score," he says. Having grown up in an artistic family—grandfather

Al embraced Fluxus' life-as-art philosophy and his brother is the acclaimed singer, Beck—it's not surprising that Hansen inherited the creativity gene. He sources his materials thoughtfully, sometimes shearing the sheep himself, dyeing and spinning the yarn, then knitting and stretching pieces in his Silver Lake studio. L.A. has had a major effect on the lifetime local, whose affection for his birthplace has grown over time. "I cannot imagine a better city to be an artist in," he says. "The creative people you encounter are unbelievably inspiring, and there's a freedom to experiment that comes from not being in the center." channinghansen.com