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CURRENTS: LOS ANGELES



Left, Benny Chan; Above, Oliver Hess

ART INSTALLATIONS

A Black Hole, Represented as a Delicate Golden Veil

In this month's blazing heat, Maximilian's Schell, an installation at the gallery Materials & Applications, is casting the most buzzed-about bit of shade in Silver Lake. The airy vortex-shaped canopy was created by Benjamin Ball, far right, an architect and former production designer, and Gaston Nogues, near right, an architect and product designer at Frank Gehry Partners. They started developing the project over a year ago. They cut 504 pieces of amber Mylar with a computer-controlled machine, fitting them together to create a structure that shades and defines the gallery's outdoor space, which they lined with hay bales for seating. "We wanted to create an environment that would be used by the community," Mr. Gaston said. The hay, he said, "added to the casualness of the space." The project's name, Mr. Ball said, pays homage to the "obsessive, control-freak personality" of Dr. Hans Reinhardt, a character played by Maximilian Schell in the film "The Black Hole." "The sheer repetition of the project requires that sort of intensity and focus," he said.

There is also an integrated sound installation by James Lumb, a composer and technology developer. A series of discussions on design, technology and culture will be held inside the installation throughout the summer at the gallery, 1619 Silver Lake Boulevard in Los Angeles. For information: www.emanate.org.



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