

Artistic Collaboration Blooms in L.A. Gallery

By Carlos Delgado • Photos by Deverill Weekes

Make-up artist **Jennifer Aspinall** (BELOW, AT RIGHT) and floral designer **Alison Franchi** (BELOW, AT LEFT) adorned four models with make-up, jewels and floral arrangements in their collaborative live exhibit "Living Art: The Human Vase." The exhibit drew a full house of nearly 100 people Jan. 29 at Hollywood's Thomas Paul Fine Art Gallery.

"We just really wanted to mix the two mediums together because it's a unique approach that hasn't really been explored," said Franchi. "We wanted to introduce it as a decor and entertainment form."

Though a shared love of creativity brought them together, blending their respective genres proved challenging.

"It's quite like a ballet, actually," said Aspinall, "because certain parts have to be done before other parts, and then other parts have to be done in coordination with the flowers."

Each "piece" took months to plan, and each was created on site; some pieces took up to six hours to complete. Aspinall and Franchi took turns working on the models.

"We do a lot of one piece, and then we pause and do this, and then another piece goes on after," Aspinall explained.

"Each one flows in its own way, the way it needs to, to accommodate the model so the model doesn't pass out."

M.A.C. provided Aspinall with much of the make-up, including acrylic body paint. Aspinall also used the "good old standbys of Aquacolor and greasepaint and pancake and all of the traditional body make-ups."

Aspinall is an Emmy-winning artist whose credits include *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *Fight Club* and *The Tonight Show*. Her 35 years of experience paid off during this show.

"I've done this for so long, so I'm used to everything from painting to prosthetics, and this was just another application of another medium," she said. "I think it worked together really wonderfully. No pun intended but it happened very organically."

Aspinall and Franchi hope to make this an annual occurrence with different themes.

