

## **Town & Country**

### **April, 2011**

#### **The Culture: Art Shows of the Season**

Rachel Wolf

Who'll claim contemporary art supremacy this month:

L.A. or New York? California's newest art impresario, Los Angeles's Museum of Contemporary Art director Jeffrey Deitch, is finally making waves in his new home. Along with a team of graffiti gurus, he'll launch the country's first full-scale museum survey of street art. "**ART IN THE STREETS**" (April 17-Aug. 8 at the Geffen Contemporary) traces the movement from its roots—with works by Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat to contemporary practitioners like Banksy and Shepard Fairey. It's already deliciously controversial: In December, Deitch was accused of censorship when he painted over a MoCA-commissioned mural by the street artist Blu meant to promote the April exhibition. (Deitch thought residents would be offended by the antiwar work, which depicted coffins shrouded in \$1 bills.) And contentiousness won't be in short supply on the East Coast either, thanks to **KARA WALKER**, the New York artist best known for her raunchy silhouettes and stop-motion animations about race and womanhood. On April 23, Walker mounts her largest exhibition of new work since 2008, a two-venue show at Chelsea's Sikkema Jenkins gallery and Lehmann Maupin's Lower East Side locale (through June 4). Of particular interest is a new video that builds on the scenic work Walker did for Lincoln Center's recent production *On the Levee*, a drama about the worst river flood, pre-Katrina, in U.S. history.