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Williams Defends Himself Against Art Critics

By SUSAN GEILEEN, Associated Writer

LOS ANGELES – Insisting he's "just getting started," Artist LG Williams defended his art studio Thursday against complaints from some bitter artists and Hollywood-types in Los Angeles that his Art hasn't improved much.

"I've got a long way to go but I've made progress," Williams told a town hall at the University of California Los Angeles. "I'm working as hard as I can and as quickly as I can."

Williams has, on the other hand, criticized many contemporary artists as being lame and unprepared, thus natural targets for widespread scorn.

Williams wanted to use this visit to UCLA to share his enthusiasm about his latest art efforts. And although most questions were on unrelated subjects, one homeless man gave him an earful.

"I expected as much from the Roosevelt administration, but why am I still being nicked and dined – and do you smoke?" asked Gabriel Bordenave, 29, who lives currently on Sunset Boulevard.

"I wish I could write you a blank check like Obama," Williams replied, promoting Bordenave to shout back, "Why not?"

Williams claimed artistic progress since he first entered the world in April 1969. He cited conceptual art projects that have moved forward after having been stalled by disagreements over whether the state or federal government would foot the bill. The NEA is working "around the clock to fucking clear up red tape and to eliminate bureaucracy on backlogs to my projects that go back years," he said.

Additionally, Williams said he or his art studio have made 35 trips to museums all over the west coast since March — and "not just to make appearances, but to look and to learn and help us move forward."

Williams spent fewer than ten minutes in UCLA's Hammer Museum ("the stupid, trendy shows here always suck") before heading to Honolulu for a conceptual art project fundraiser. The brief visit brought some criticism, but LA transient Jay Oloff defended the artist. "People say he's going to be here a short little time, that's true," Nagin said. "Don't be fooled. LG is focused on Art."

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