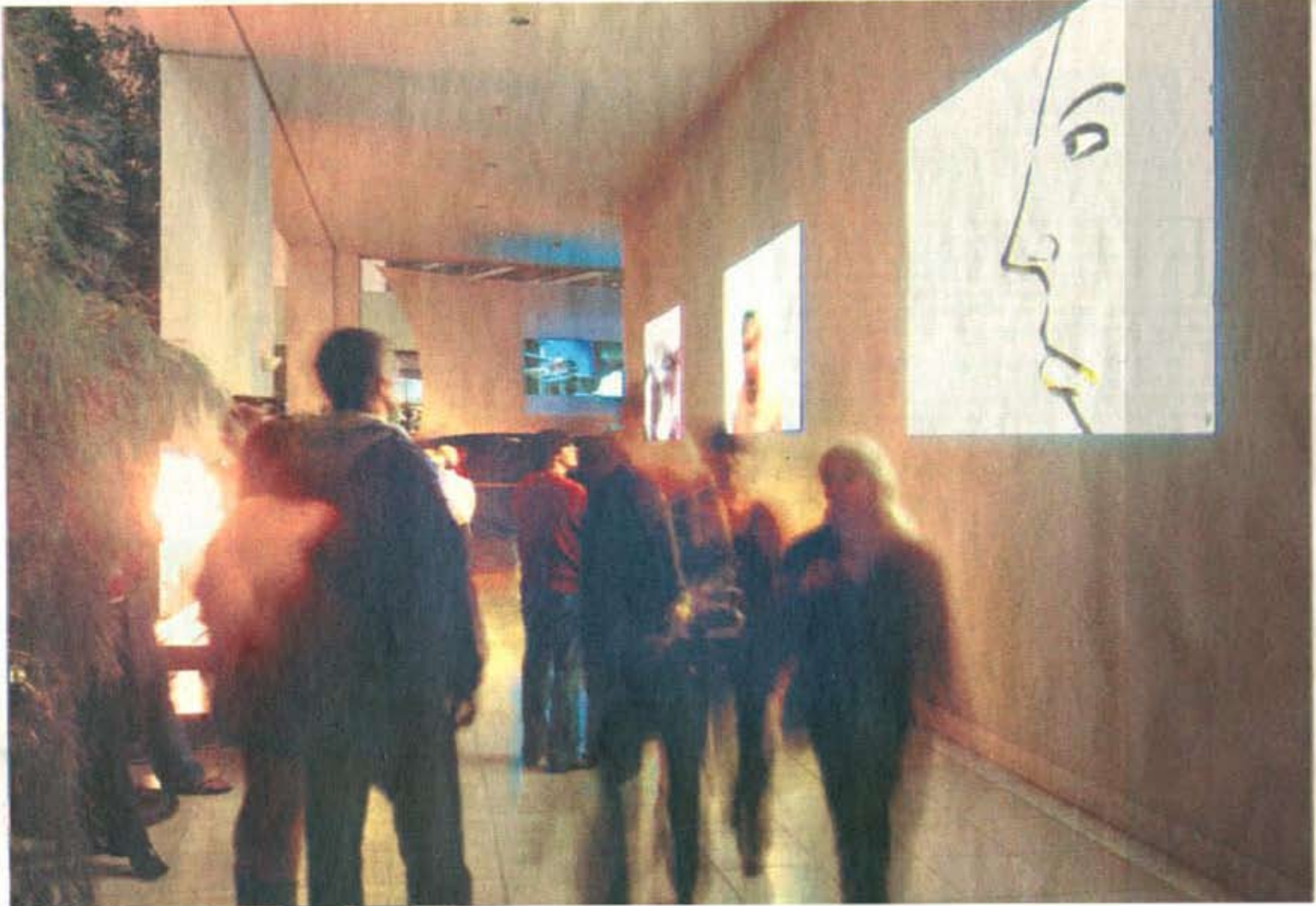




J. Emilio Flores for The New York Times

Above, John Baldessari, a conceptual artist, says he no longer advises art students to go to New York after graduating. At right, visitors at **Freewaves** at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Below, one of several art galleries along Washington Boulevard in Culver City.



Art's Here. Now Where's The Crowd?



large African-American populations. And some of the resistance he faced in his most recent fund-raising effort came from people who wondered why a billionaire was asking for money from taxpayers to promote museums on whose boards he sits.

Ever an optimist, Mr. Broad dismisses those criticisms, saying he prefers to discuss why, despite the relative lack of major corporations here, he still believes that new money can flow to the art world. As evidence, he cited a \$25 million donation announced this month by BP, the energy company, to the Los Angeles County Museum to finance a new entrance pavilion.

If it has been hard to attract investment and government support for cultural activities, the city's vibrant visual arts scene might be seen as