

ArtReview

April 2016

Previewed

Wasteland

Thaddaeus Ropac,
Paris Pantin, and Mona Bismarck
American Center, Paris
through 17 July

Get your defence in first, Shamim Momin
4 clearly decided with regard to *Wasteland*,
the show of 14 Los Angeles artists she's curated
for two Paris venues under the aegis of Galerie
Thaddaeus Ropac. Yes, Los Angeles is, in the

cliché view, a cultural wasteland ringed by
a wasteland of desert and scrub whose main
industry in turn cranks out rote cinematic
visions of postapocalyptic wastelands. More
classily, the show also refers to T.S. Eliot's 1922
poem *The Waste Land* (and, we note, will be on
in April, the 'cruellest month' of the poem's
opening line). Between them, a cream-skimming
list including Lisa Anne Auerbach, Math Bass,
Mark Bradford, Amanda Ross-Ho, Analia Saban
and others will start 'a reflexive, complex, multi-
dimensional conversation about the poetics of
despair, the search for true connection, the ten-
uous state of morality, and the uncertainty,
yet necessity, of the future'. Which, incidentally,
sounds to us a lot like *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015).