

Source: Sight & Sound {Main}  
Edition:  
Country: UK  
Date: Monday 1, September 2008  
Page: 87  
Area: 93 sq. cm  
Circulation: ABC 20283 Monthly  
BRAD info: page rate £1,575.00, scc rate £0.00  
Phone: 020 7255 1444  
Keyword: The Cool School: Story of the Ferus Art Gallery

> durrants

### The Cool School

Morgan Neville; USA 2008;  
Revolver Entertainment/Region 2;  
85 minutes; Aspect Ratio 16:9

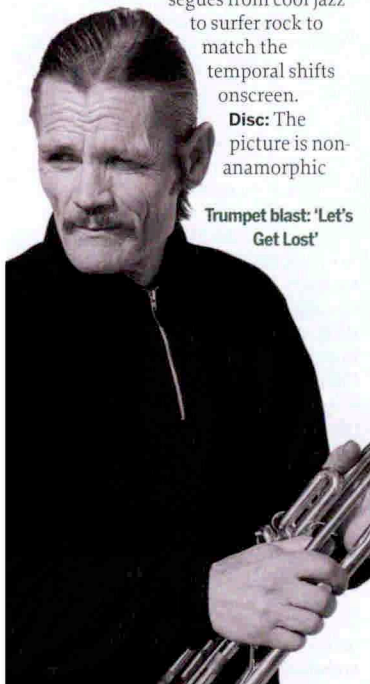
**Film:** An engaging, briskly edited whistlestop tour of the mid-century Los Angeles modern-art scene, from virtual non-existence in the early 1950s to New York's

cultural rival a decade later (when pop art supplanted abstract expressionism as the defining American artform). Many key figures are interviewed, including facilitators-cum-gurus Walter Hopps and Irving Bloom, through artists Wallace Berman, Robert Irwin, Ed Moses and Ed Ruscha and high-profile fans Dean Stockwell and Dennis Hopper, intercut with artworks, rare stills and home-movie footage. The conflict between ambition and available running time leads to occasional bittiness, and the claim that Hopps' Ferus Gallery was the nexus of the entire West Coast contemporary art universe might be open to question, but there's some fascinating material along the way. Dan Crane's score seamlessly

segues from cool jazz to surfer rock to match the temporal shifts onscreen.

**Disc:** The picture is non-anamorphic

**Trumpet blast: 'Let's Get Lost'**



but otherwise clean, although the low resolution turns Roy Lichtenstein's dots into a psychedelic *moiré* shimmer. (MB)

