A View From The Top
Greg Busceme, TASI Director

The ISSUE is a monthly publication of The Art Studio, Inc., providing information about artists, art exhibitions, and events in Southeast Texas. The ISSUE strives to promote and distribute the writings of local authors in its "Thoughtcrime" feature. The ISSUE is also charged with informing TASI members of projects, progress, achievements and setbacks in TASI's well-being. Further, ISSUE strives to promote the growth of the arts in Southeast Texas. ISSUE is also charged with informing TASI's tenants, and to promote the growth of the arts in Southeast Texas.

From: Andy15mins

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in the future everyone will be famous
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Membership in The Art Studio, Inc. provides invitations to all exhibitions and participation in various exhibitions throughout the year. Membership in The Art Studio, Inc. also gives free eligibility for members to enter the annual membership art exhibition (TAMMAZ!) and participate in various exhibitions throughout the year.

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When Beau Dumesnil put out the call for volunteers to help paint the mural at The Art Studio on Oct. 24, he got a healthy response. More than 20 volunteers showed up to spend the day climbing and bending, stretching and straining to brighten the outside wall of the clay area. The four panels, designed by artists Andy Ledesma, Marty Arredondo, Andy Coughlan and Dumesnil, recruited willing hands to block out the color. There are still details to put in place, but an amazing amount was accomplished. It was a case of many hands making light — and colorful — work.
LU seniors to showcase work at Dishman Dec. 4

LU seniors are preparing for the senior thesis show, which opens Dec. 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Dishman Art Museum.

Within the show will be installations, paintings and posters that students have been working on for months.

Seniors are incorporating their passions in life and their art careers to create pieces that will represent them and their work well. Some of the pieces will be representative of the progress students have made in their careers, and some will be representative of what they are passionate about in life.

“I’m doing a piece that honors veterans, focusing mainly on World War II veterans right now,” Robyn Voight said. “It’s 21 30-inch bullets that will be on three pedestals. I’m a double major in history and art. I’ve been involved in history for a long time, and I’m a big WWII buff. I’m influenced by my grandfather, but also, they (WWII veterans) are considered the greatest generation. They fought a major war that is the reason we can be here today and live freely. I just think the veterans should be respected.”

Both of Voight’s grandfathers served in WWII, and one also served in Korea, she said. She’s using ceramics to make the bullets, each of which have to be made in three parts and then put together. She’s putting a white slip on each of them and is making her own ink to put images onto them.

“The images I’m using are field manuals and military documents like DD214s and old letters that they wrote, photographs and whatnot,” she said. “You make a Xerox of it, the only part that takes the ink is the actual xerox itself. You roll it up and put it on the bullet, and the slip accepts the ink.”

The letters and photos are from people that she knows, and the field manuals are ones she either already owned or bought online. She said that each bullet represents a different veteran, and the images, especially the field manuals, are used to depict memories of those veterans.

“I’m taking the different stories that I’ve heard from them and using them (field manuals) to depict those memories,” she said. “Whenever they tell me their memories, I filter them through me and then put them on the bullet. The only thing that I have to put as an image is from field manuals.”

The bullets will be on three pedestals made of birchwood, she said, that have a slight taper to match the taper of the bullet. The pedestals will be on one big base to raise them and to make it one piece.

Besides Voight’s installation, the Dishman will hold graphic posters designed by Amanda Talcott. Using photographs she has taken herself or found online, Talcott said that she is using Photoshop to make them more illustrative.

Her title is “Forgotten Principles,” and the poster themes include responsibility, respect, patience, honesty, pride and perseverance.

The buildings are approaching and whatever you are celebrating this season is the same — what can I get for that special someone that won’t break the bank?

Fortunately, The Art Studio, Inc. has the answer. TASI will host its annual Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza in December, featuring original art at reasonable prices by a variety of local artists.

The event begins Dec. 5 at 11 a.m., and there will be a free opening reception from 7-10 p.m. that evening.

“People have been rocked by the downturn in the economy over the past year, but they still want to get something unique for gifts,” Greg Busceme, TASI director, said. “The Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza traditionally has a great variety of items. I am confident that there is something for everyone.”

The Shop-O-Rama traditionally offers smaller versions of the great art produced by tenants and members of The Art Studio year-round, he said.

“We know that people at this time of the year are not buying for themselves,” Busceme said. “So this year’s show should attract a good group of artists, Busceme said.

“Last year, in the wake of Hurricane Ike, many people were just trying to rebuild,” Busceme said. “But this year we have people who have been producing work.”

Many of the artists displaying their work at the Shop-O-Rama are tenants of The Art Studio, artists who rent space and work at TASI during the year.

“This has been a good year for tenancy, with more than 15 artists renting spaces,” Busceme said. “So instead of giving your money to a giant conglomerate, stimulate the local economy by supporting area artists.”

The Art Studio, Inc. is located at 730 Franklin in downtown Beaumont. Hours are afternoons, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 409-838-5393.
GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SHOPPERS. WELL IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. ISN'T IT? THE ONLY TIME OF YEAR WHERE IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO WEAR RED AND GREEN SWEATERS WITH WOODLAND CREATURES ON THEM. NOT THAT I WOULD OF COURSE, BUT I'M SURE YOU COULDN'T HELP IT IF YOU TRIED.

THE MEL BROOKS COLLECTION — This one has everything you could want in a Mel Brooks set. From "Blazing Saddles" to "Young Frankenstein" to "Silent Movie." This is just the thing for anyone who loves a good parody movie and hasn't bought any of the classics on Blu-Ray yet.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: THE COMPLETE FIFTH SEASON — This one is a no brainer. Surely someone on your list would love to have this in their stocking and if not, you can always give it as a gift.

THE MEL BROOKS COLLECTION — This one has everything you could want in a Mel Brooks set. From "Blazing Saddles" to "Young Frankenstein" to "Silent Movie." This is just the thing for anyone who loves a good parody movie and hasn't bought any of the classics on Blu-Ray yet.

WORLDS GREATEST DAD — Remember when Robin Williams was in "Jumanji"? "Wills" is a romantic comedy from a 90s' male perspective, so be prepared for something a little more realistic. A must see. Joseph Gordon-Levitt is astounding and he really gets me. Let's hope this one does too.

500 DAYS OF SUMMER — In much the same way that "Swingers" was a romantic comedy from a 90s' male perspective, "500 Days of Summer" is for guys right now. This is a supremely realistic look at how relationships look from a guy's perspective. A must see. Joseph Gordon-Levitt is astounding and he really should get a nomination for this. Not saying Oscar, just saying something.

UNDER THE DOME — In Stephen King's new novel, a small town in Maine is surrounded by an invisible forcefield. I know. No, I know, it sounds like some weird issue of the Fantastic Four* from the 1960s. But it's King. So it has to be good, right? I mean he hasn't steered us wrong yet. Surely the same is true here. It's well written and nearly indestructable, tying up loose ends can cause an awful lot of collateral damage. This comic book is not for faint of heart parents. Gore abounds but it's still the best live performance I've ever seen a single person give. He is a legend.

DESTROYER — Ever wonder what you would do if you only had weeks to live? What kind of loose ends would you need to tie up? What if you were also a superhero? The Destroyer, one of the original Marvel heroes from the 1940s, is living on borrowed time. When you're super strong and nearly indestructable, tying up loose ends can cause an awful lot of collateral damage. This comic book is not for faint of heart parents. Gore abounds but it's still the best live performance I've ever seen a single person give. He is a legend.

INCognito — So you used to be a super villain. Only problem is now you're a writer and director. Let's hope he gets to do more projects like this one.

EXTRACT — As the redheaded stepchild of the summer comedies, I'll never understand how this movie became the second most seen film of the summer. I'll never understand how this movie became the second most seen film of the summer. This comic book is not for faint of heart parents. Gore abounds but it's still the best live performance I've ever seen a single person give. He is a legend.

THE PLAN OF CHICAGO: DANIEL BURNHAM AND THE REMAKING OF THE AMERICAN CITY — I love any sort of American History but recently I've been fascinated with how exactly a bustling metropolis is formed. This book is for the Wridly City Through illustrations, maps, old campaign art and prose it takes you on a journey through the remaking of Chicago.
Books of Hours

Stark Museum exhibit features medieval manuscripts, tapestries

ORANGE — To celebrate the holiday season, the Stark Museum of Art presents the exhibition “Entwined across the Ages: Illuminated Manuscripts and Tapestries.” The exhibition will be on view at the Stark Museum of Art in Orange from Nov. 21 through Jan. 30.

This holiday season exhibition features the Stark Museum’s collection of medieval illuminated manuscripts exhibited within a setting of twenty-century wall tapestries that were inspired by arts from the medieval period. “Entwined across the Ages” highlights the variety and richness of manuscript illustrations in Books of Hours and includes images of the Christmas story.

The exhibition will include the museum’s seven beautifully hand-painted Books of Hours. These prayer books were illustrated by French, Flemish and Dutch artists and date from the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The books will be open to pages showing a range of illustrational scenes, and Dutch artists and date from the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.

Surrounding the manuscripts will be nine twentieth-century tapestries, also from the Stark Museum’s collections. These tapestries were produced by Edgewater Tapestry Looms, directed by artist Lorentz Klucker, whose weavings drew inspiration from medieval arts.

In the medieval period when the Book of Hours was the most prevalent type of book, the woven tapestry became a primary artistic medium for decoration of churches, castles, and public buildings. The prayer books would have been read in settings with wall textiles. In the twentieth century, the art of tapestry weaving was revived in America by artists such as Krüser who looked to the past for inspiration and to create a warm, enriched environment,” Sarah Bohme, director of the Stark Museum of Art, said.

The exhibition includes a hands-on educational area with art activities especially relevant for children and families. In association with the exhibition and special events, the museum store will feature new items with the exhibition’s signature image, including Christmas ornaments and holiday cards.

Eyes to Fly With... Madonnas

AMSET hosts work by Mexican artists

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is hosting two exhibitions with ties to Mexico.

“The Madonna as Muse: The Paintings of René Alvarado” and “Eyes to Fly With...” by Mexican artist Graciela Iturbide will be on view through Jan. 3, 2010.

Visitors to AMSET can immerse themselves in the spiritually and iconographically rich paintings of Mexican-American artist René Alvarado, Melissa Tilley, AMSET spokesperson, said in a release.

“The Madonna as Muse,” organized by the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, includes 11 paintings of various sizes. It is accompanied by a brief documentary highlighting the artist’s life, artistic influences and inspirations.

Alvarado, who has been painting professionally for 15 years, defines his work by “my familial roots in northern Mexico and by the subtle, challenging and mystical environment of my adopted home in West Texas.”

The artist was born in 1972 in the small village of El Manantial, Coahuila just outside of Torreon, Mexico and emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of seven. He currently resides in San Angelo, Texas where he has created a unique living and working space in a converted Lutheran church originally built in the 1920s.

A critical component in identifying Alvarado’s meaning in his paintings is environment, which for this artist comprises both his Mexican heritage in El Manantial and his current life in San Angelo.

“My work of body is a layering of imagery, metaphorically narrating the lives and experiences of those who have made an impact in my life,” Alvarado said in a release. “I paint what I feel, that which is me, and my surroundings. You will see on canvas the richness of my grandparents’ tales told alongside the adventures of the ‘new life’ created by my hardworking, immigrant grandparents. Through symbolism, metaphors, and pictorial language, I tell my story.”

Another important visual component featured in the paintings in the exhibition is the repeated use of the image of the Madonna.

In describing his decision to incorporate this religious icon into the majority of his works, Alvarado states, “I have come to associate my Madonna paintings to the traditional and sense of pride of Mexican women—my grandmothers, my mother, and now sisters. Each one speaks straight from the heart and with such poetic nature! She has become my muse, and equally important as my landscapes, seascapes, and still lifes. She is as important as the paint I mix and the brush I hold.”

“Eyes to Fly With...” features the compelling photographic work of Mexican, female photographer Graciela Iturbide.

This 50-year photographic retrospective is organized by the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University in San Marcos and showcases some of the most distinguished and iconic photographs in this artist’s career, including her interpretation of the indigenous culture of the Zapotec in the Juchitán and the Seris of the Sonoran desert.

Considered one of Mexico’s greatest photographers, Iturbide was born in Mexico City in 1942 and studied filmmaking and scriptwriting at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México from 1969 to 1972. At the time, Iturbide was strongly influenced by her mentor and professor, Manuel Álvarez Bravo, who instigated in the young artist a need to discover her country and its distinct cultures through photography.

The relationships between man and nature, the individual and culture, the real and the psychological are the prevailing themes that one experiences when viewing and understanding Iturbide’s highly diverse photographic career.

“With the camera you interpret reality,” Iturbide said in a release. “Photography is not truth. The photographer interprets reality and, above all, constructs his own reality according to his own awareness or his own emotions. Sometimes it’s complicated because it’s a kind of schizoidic phenomenon. Without the camera, you see the world in one way and with the camera in another...”

AMSET is located at 500 Main Street in downtown Beaumont. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Admission: Free.

For more information, call 409-832-3452 or visit www.amset.org.
The Storm

Thought I heard you calling my name
Only the wind howling in the window pane.
Thought I saw you standing there
Only a shadow from the sky
Thought you touched me while lying in bed
Only the echoes of the wind.
Thought my man was home
Only the scent after the rain has gone.
Thou art a Thoughtcrime
Thought the wind was breathing into the door.

Clairvoyant

Thus we love a Thoughtcrime.

Thoughtcrime

Thoughtcrime

from George Orwell's 1984

Hell's Bells

The arrival is a slow trickle
Names are exchanged like playing cards on a street
Get it, go back to it.
Out come the cups and ice and words are put together in the kitchen before spelling.
You made the landscape at the door.
You may feel that being MAJOR in the business of others
It might be that you remember

To be loyal and honest with others.
You might find that by watching what you say
You are able to reach

In addition to keeping your promises,

The relationships.

You might feel that being open and straightforward,

You might find that you remember

you are really going places

It might be that you remember

And this erases any doubts or fears
Setting the intention to speak honestly,

You might find that you remember

you may feel that being open and straightforward,

Trusting Words

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“I noticed that people age aren’t responsible, they weren’t the way I was,” Talcott said. “They don’t take responsibility for themselves, and they aren’t respectful. For perseverance, I was thinking about marriage and how people give up so easily. The one for (age) is about people’s self-esteem. They’re either arrogant or not proud of their work.”

She had many subjects to cover that people could relate to, she said. Each poster will have one word and one image accompanying it. A problem she said she encountered while taking or finding pictures was to think of ways to get people’s attention without overloading anyone.

“For respect, the first image I had was of an American flag on fire,” she said. “I want to try to get people’s attention, but I thought it was too political. It wouldn’t get a straightforward word message. I wanted to say, ‘Respectful of other cultures,’ but I thought it would anger people more and wouldn’t get the message across.”

Talcott said she’s hoping to avoid having to explain anything about her pieces. However, she said, “I don’t want to have an image, the word, and a quote to go with it, like on inspirational posters. However, she said she had trouble linking the quote to the image or getting an image to match the quote.”

“It’s been frustrating and kind of exciting,” she said. “I feel like I could’ve done something simpler.”

“I feel like I could’ve done something simpler. Each poster is like an individual research project and very complicated.”

April Sherman is doing eight paintings of interiors, which she has been focusing on for her whole art career. She said that the paintings for her thesis will be different from how she normally paints, pushing the limits of her subject matter and her own artistic growth.

“There’s a lot of intense emotions, I’m an emotional person and have a chaotic style,” Sherman said. “When I started with the rooms, they were so serene. They had nothing going on, they were empty. I like making them expressive and active. I’m taking something mundane and boring and am giving them life through my artistic process.”

She bases her paintings off of images she gets from interior decorating books and online, she said. She normally does living and dining rooms, but has done some hospital interiors too.

“The way I’m painting, they become more energetic with marks,” she said. “When you look at it you see something that resembles a dining room, with marks and paint. You can’t see something like a chair. I’m developing a new way of painting. I wanted the paint to be more personal and expressive with what’s going on with my life.”

Sherman said, with her thesis, she’s trying not to overplay it like she usually does. When she starts the painting loose and sketchy, she’s trying to keep it that way. She said she’s trying to lose the spontaneity and freshness in the finished project, leaving them chaotic.

“I want people to be interested in them, and they can react to the chaos in their own way. Some people may not like it, it’s chaos, it’s very loose. It’s not very pretty, so people can see the psychological process I’m going through.”

“I would say just to have an open mindset as far as what is beauty and what is important. I’m coming from a modernist approach, it’s abstract with an expressionist root. Some people may be used to Thomas Kincaid and things being pretty. I hope it won’t be dismissed because it looks like a mess; it was made that way intentionally.”

One of her paintings has a red couch in it that she’s enjoying right now. She said that it was dull to begin with, but a yellow “squiggle” she gave it brought it back to life. With each of her thesis paintings, she has been trying to live in the time she’s making them. She said that working on them has been a breakthrough.

“All students have this body of work; it’s a huge process of intellectual development,” she said. “Art is not an easy thing; it’s work. We work hard so people can enjoy our work, experience it, and get something out of it.”

Other artists featured in the show include Michael Crennort, Maurice Atelama, Kevin Thomas, Dustin Baxter, Mya Bean, Travis Coatney, Bryon Ory, and Thomas Kincaid.

The show will be on display through Dec. 17. The Dishman Art Museum is located at corner of MLK Flexy, and E. Lavaca on the Lamar University campus.

For more information, call 409-880-8959.
When you support The Art Studio with your membership, you receive ISSUE, Southeast Texas’ and Southwest Louisiana’s alternative press as well as class schedules, invitations to opening receptions and various Studio functions.

Volunteers
These people are the life blood of our organization. WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

To volunteer, drop by The Art Studio, Inc., or call 409-838-5393.

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THIS MONTH:
‘THE ANNUAL
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SOUTHEAST TEXAS ARTS COUNCIL
This project is funded in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts, Dishman Trust, Entergy, HEB, and the Vic Rogers Foundation through the Southeast Texas Arts Council