

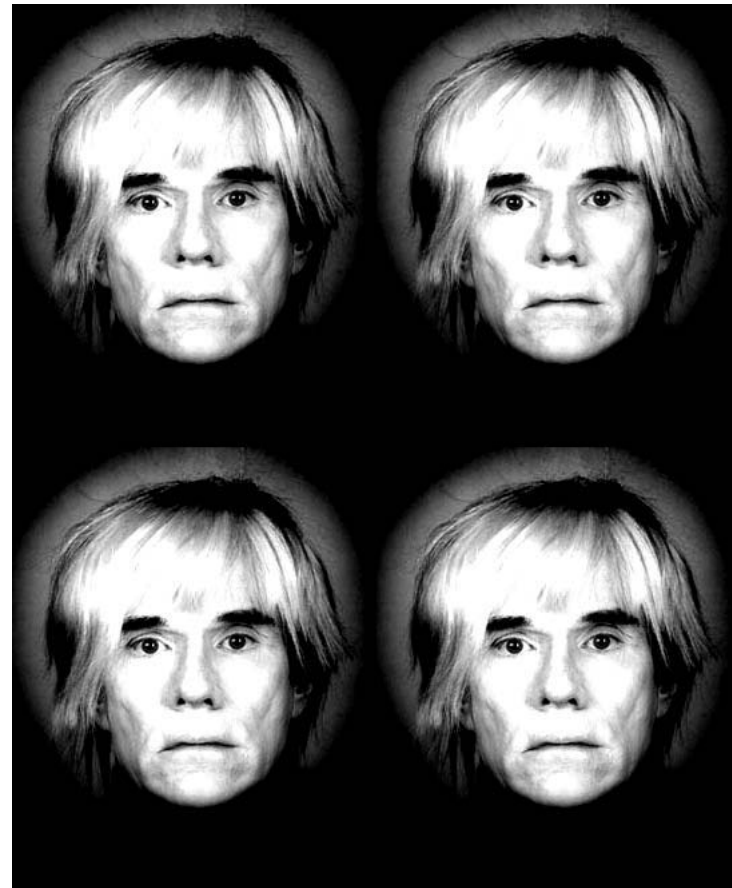
ISSUE

THE ARTS MAGAZINE OF THE ART STUDIO, INC.

DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010

MUSING
ON MURAL
Page 4

INSIDE:
GEEK'S GIFT GUIDE,
SHOP-O-RAMA EXTRAVAGANZA,
LU SENIOR THESIS SHOW,
AND MORE



From: Andy15mins

just finished eating soup

in the future everyone will be famous
for up to 140 characters

must get art studio membership



SEE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 3.



ISSUE Vol. 16, No. 4

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

ISSUE is provided free of charge to members of TASI and is also available, free of charge, at more than 30 locations in Southeast Texas.

Regular features include local artists of note and reputation who are not currently exhibiting at TASI; artists currently or soon to be exhibiting at TASI; instructional articles for artists; news stories regarding the state of TASI's organization; and arts news features dealing with general philosophical issues of interest to artists.

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Cover:
Working on the mural at The Art Studio.
Photo by Tara Smith

A View From The Top

Greg Busceme, TASI Director



A "VOLUNTEER" IN GARDENING is a surprise plant that grows well even if you didn't plan on it.

Nevertheless, you will probably benefit from the unexpected life form. Additionally, you may not know the nature of the plant, where it will grow, how big it may be. Again, you will probably benefit from the surprise garden guest.

So it seems to be with human volunteers. A person walks in and states that they want to help in some way. I ask in what area they might be interested and they usually tell me what skills they may have.

This is the bargaining stage of volunteer negotiations. The Studio has needs that must be met and they have to coincide with the desires of the volunteer. Sometimes it's a fit, sometimes it isn't. Ultimately it is up to the individual.

In the case of The Studio and the mural, there is a happy ending. For ten years, maybe more, I've wanted the metal wall of the clay studio to be painted and the studio name emblazoned on the wall. We have had several people take on the task, but life and finances got

in the way on our part and that of the sign painter. No harm, no foul.

I believe people are drawn to The Studio for sometimes quite ethereal reasons. Sometimes they don't even know what they are here for, but they know there is something they need to do.

Is it the wall? Is it the office? Is it The Studio itself? That is our ultimate question.

Other times, people are enthusiastic and excited about our agreed plan and I never hear from them again. I react to this as the author Kurt Vonnegut would, saying, "So it goes."

On the other hand there are matches made in heaven and they are delights to the heart. Andy Coughlan, our printing maven, produces nine invitations and 10 ISSUE tabloid magazines a year along with PSAs and incidental announcements. Terri McKusker diligently distributes the paper to a host of locations throughout the area and folds tons of papers ready to mail out. Cyndi Grimes checks the list of tenants and makes

See VIEW on page 14

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE ART STUDIO

DECEMBER

Annual Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza
Opening December 5

FEBRUARY

"pARTy-cipation" workshop and art exhibition
Opening February 6

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ART STUDIO

Membership in The Art Studio, Inc., provides invitations to all exhibitions and one year of ISSUE, the monthly arts magazine of The Art Studio. It also gives free eligibility for members to enter the annual membership art exhibition (TASIMJAE) and participate in various exhibitions throughout the year.



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Individual:	\$35	Patron:	\$500
Family/Group:	\$50	Angel:	\$1,000
Friend/Business:	\$100	Benefactor:	\$2,000
Sustaining:	\$250	Life Member:	\$10,000

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The Art Studio, Inc. 720 Franklin, Beaumont 77701



PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH SNYDER,
TARA SMITH
AND ANDY COUGHLAN



PAINTING UP THE WALL

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

Story and photos by Chelsea Henderson

LAMAR'S STUDENTS 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 interested in history for a long time, and I'm a big WWII buff."

"I'm influenced by my grandfathers, 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.

See SENIORS on page 15



A series of bullets by Robyn Voight, left, and paintings by April Sherman, above, are among the works on display at the Lamar University Senior Thesis Show in December.



shop-o-rama extravaganza

AREA ARTISTS OFFER INEXPENSIVE GIFT IDEAS DURING SEASONAL SALE

THE HOLIDAYS ARE APPROACHING and whatever you are celebrating the question 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 their 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 the artists try to make

work available that is not as expensive as some of the usual work they may produce.

The roster of artists for this year's Shop-O-Rama is still being compiled, but a variety of pieces are already guaranteed to be available. Ceramics, paintings, drawings and prints, decorative boxes, photographs, woodcarvings, dolls, jewelry and other knick-knacks are expected to be on display.

Many of the items fall in the \$20 to \$50 range, but there will be a selection of higher priced items as well.

Participation in the sale is open to TASI members in good standing. Anyone wishing to take part in the event can become a member of The Art Studio when they bring their work in. Memberships begin at \$35.

Work will be accepted Dec. 1-4 in the afternoons. Participants are responsible for setting up their work for display. All artwork must be brought by in person. Work may be added at any time during the run of the Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza.

TASI takes a commission of 25 percent on all items sold.

"The commission is particularly low in relation to other arts organizations,"

Busceme said. "It is not unusual for galleries to charge as much as 50 percent commission. We have always tried to keep the percentage low to encourage the less experienced artist to become involved in exhibiting and selling their work."

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 tenantry, with more than 15 artists renting spaces.

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 720 Franklin in downtown Beaumont. Hours are afternoons, Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, call 409-838-5393.

THE GEEK'S GIFT GUIDE

THE PALE ONES MAY BE 'SPECIAL,' BUT THEY STILL



Commentary by Jeff Dixon
Writer, critic and self-proclaimed geek

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, nor should any of you undertake such a gesture. Very well on with it.

THE MEL BROOKS COLLECTION — This one has everything you could want in a Mel Brooks box 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 you can't think of anyone that fits that description well it's probably a safe bet that you need some new friends. Here's a taste of the hosts for this season: Eric Idle, Rodney Dangerfield, Martin Sheen, Bea Arthur, Burt Reynolds, and Bob Newhart. How can you pass that up? What sort of person are you? Let's not fight about this ... listen, we've both had a rough day so let's just move on.

WORLDS GREATEST DAD — Remember when Robin Williams was in really great movies? I know it's been awhile but trust me, he's still got it. This isn't your typical comedy though, so be prepared for something a little more off beat than you're used to. The trip is well worth it and Bobcat Goldthwait



RETURNS

NEED PREZZIES



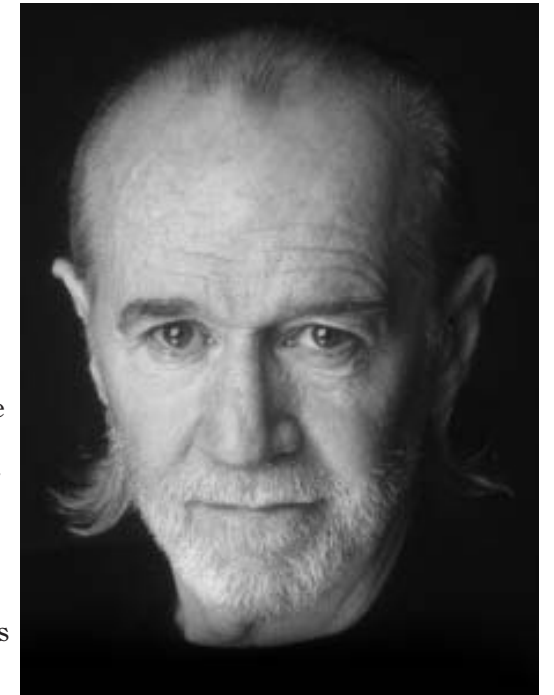
Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zoey Deschanel star in "500 Days of Summer."

looks to finally be coming into his own as a writer and director. Let's hope he gets to do more projects like this one.

EXTRACT — Ah the redhead stepchild of the summer comedies. I'll never understand how this movie bombed after all the laughs the trailer got in crowded theaters months before its release. But them's the breaks as my grandpa used to say. Well, he didn't really say that. Gramps didn't have too many catchphrases. He was a man of few words. But he had a stare that could turn a ghost white. Well this has taken a turn. Anyway, pick this up for that friend of yours who loved "Office Space."



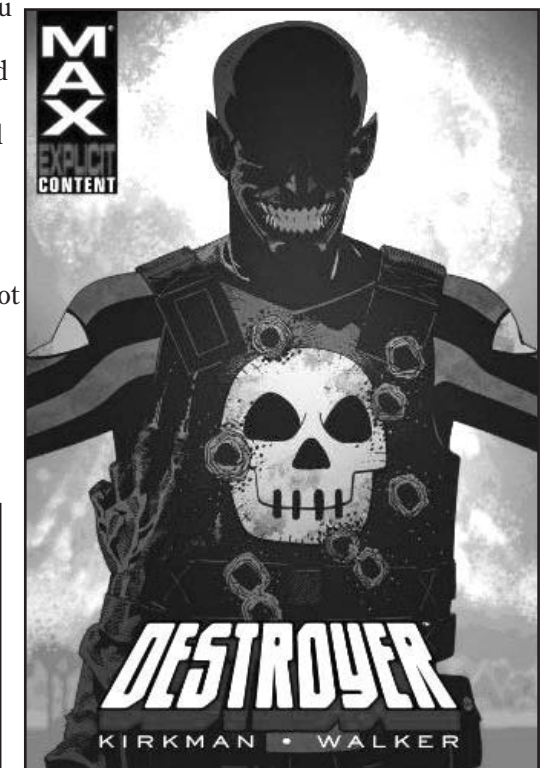
LAST WORDS — George Carlin's autobiography is the surprise of the season for me. Not that it's good, just that it's here at all. Carlin was, is and always will be my favorite stand-up comedian. The man could make anything and everything funny. Even when you could see the punch line coming the journey so amazing. I saw Carlin live at the Julie Rogers a few years ago



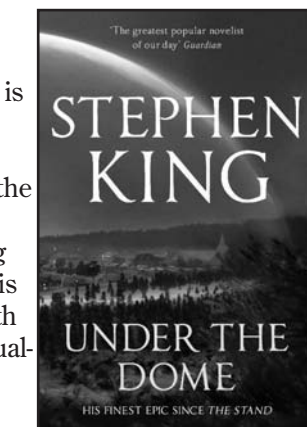
and it's still the best live performance I've ever seen a single person give. He is a legend.

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.

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 indestructible, tying up loose ends can cause an awful lot of collateral damage. This comic book is not for faint of heart parents. Gore abounds beneath this lead and ink.

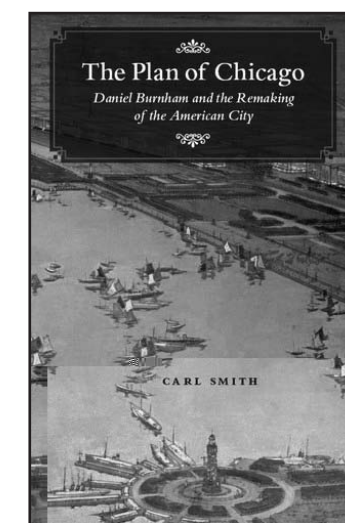


UNDER THE DOME — In Stephen King's new novel, a small town in Maine is surrounded by an invisible forcefield. I know. No, I know, it sounds like some weird issue of the Fantastic Four* from the 1960s. But it's King. So it has to be good right? I mean he hasn't steered us wrong yet. Surely the name on the cover alone is enough to warrant a flip through and with most King books that first paragraph usually gets me. Let's hope this one does too.



**Editors note: They were all weird.*

INCOGNITO — So you used to be a super villain. Only problem is now you



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 that for the Windy City. Through illustrations, maps, old campaign art and prose it takes you on a journey through the remaking of Chicago.

See GEEK on page 14

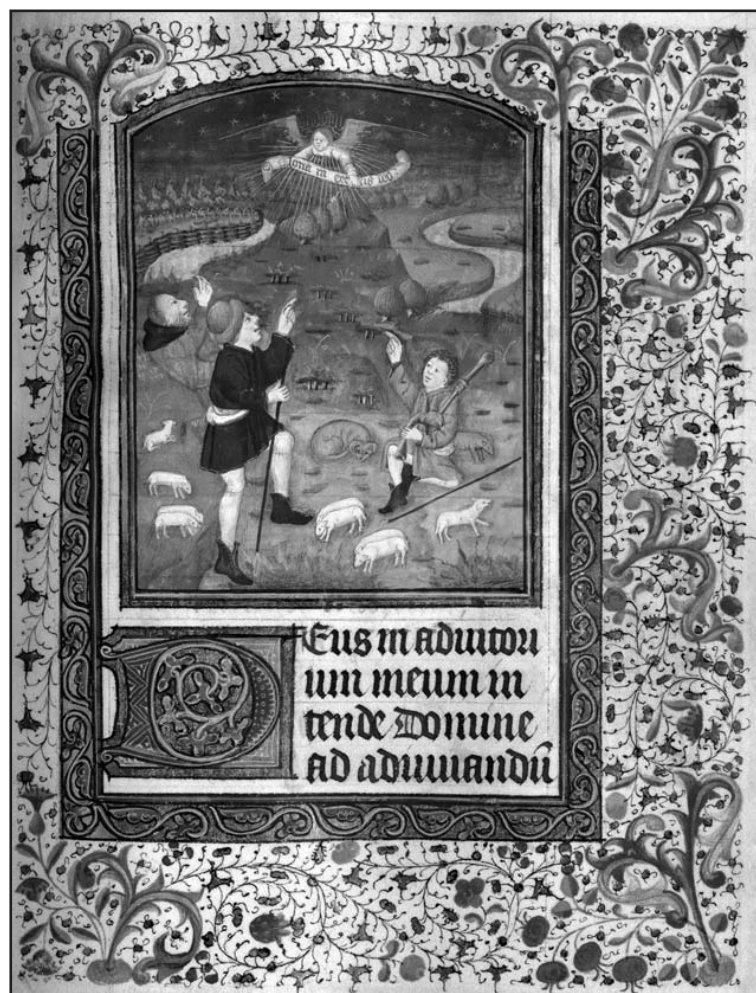


Books of Hours

Stark Museum exhibit features medieval manuscripts, tapestries

Lorentz Kleiser (1879-1963), above, Edgewater Tapestry Looms "Madrigal" c.1930 woven with silk and wool; vegetable dyes 85-1/2 x 107-3/4 inches

Anonymous Flemish Artist, right, "Annunciation to the Shepherds, Book of Hours" c. 1420-1430, paint, gold and ink on vellum 6-3/4 x 5-1/4 inches



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 twentieth-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, such as calendars, devotional images and border decoration.

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 Kleiser, 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 Kleiser who looked to the past for inspiration and to create a warm, enriched environment," Sarah Boehme, 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 & 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 (Ojos Para Volar): Photographs by 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 14 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 Torreón, Mexico and emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of seven. He currently resides in San Angelo, Texas where he

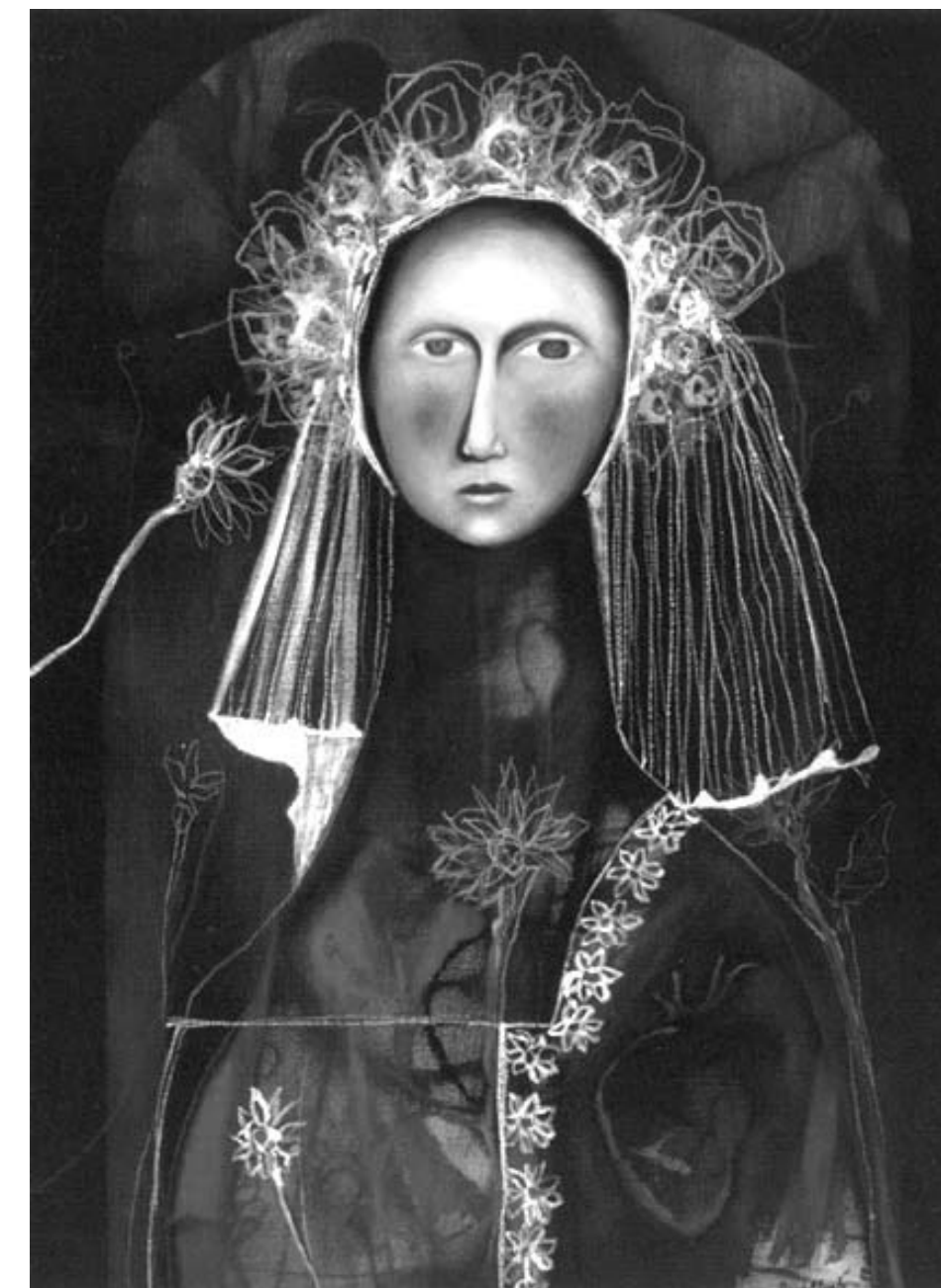
has created a unique living and working space in a converted Lutheran church originally built in the 1920s.

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 body of work 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' folk tales alongside the adventures of the 'new life' created by my hardworking, immigrant parents. 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 grand-



"La Novia del Pavo Real" by René Alvarado, above, and "Untitled" by Graciela Iturbide are among the works on display at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas through Jan. 3.

mothers, 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 58-photograph 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 oeuvre, 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 schizophrenic 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 409-832-3432 or visit www.amset.org.



Around & About

If you come across any interesting exhibitions, museums or other places on your travels, share them with us. Call 409-838-5393, or contact us through our web site at www.artstudio.org. Be sure to include the location and dates of the subject, as well as any costs.

The **BEAUMONT ART LEAGUE 2009 MEMBERSHIP SHOW** will host the **LAMAR DRAWING AND PRINTMAKING EXHIBITION** comprised of current advanced drawing and all levels of printmaking students.

“We are looking forward to art from about 18 student-artists — it’s a student driven thing — representing approaches from the academic to the abstract,” instructor Xenia Fedorchenko said. “Most work exhibited will have resulted from this semester. Some pieces highlight semesters past

The show will open with a free reception 7-9 p.m., Dec. 12.

For more information, call 409-833-4179. BAL is located at 2675 Gulf St. in Beaumont.

THE LAMARISSIMO! CONCERT SERIES will usher in the holiday season with performances by the **LAMAR UNIVERSITY GRAND CHORUS AND A CAPPELLA CHOIR** at 3 p.m. Dec. 6, in the historic Jefferson Theatre in downtown Beaumont.

Under the direction of James Han, Lamar’s new director of choral activities, the choirs will perform sacred works, carols and other seasonal selections. JK Chevrolet-Subaru is the concert sponsor.

Now celebrating its 20th Anniversary Season, Lamarissimo! provides an off-campus showcase for Lamar student and faculty talents.

The concert is open to holders of Lamarissimo! season tickets, which include admission to all five concerts in 2009-2010. Individual tickets — as well as Lamarissimo! gift certificates — will be on sale at the Jefferson Theatre box office beginning at 2:15 p.m. the afternoon of the holiday concert.

Individual tickets are priced at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Admission is free to students of Lamar University in Beaumont with valid ID.

Additional information is available in the Lamar Department of Music, 409-880-8144,

The **FORT BEND BOYS CHOIR OF TEXAS**, which wowed last year’s audience, will return with a new performance of songs new and old on Dec. 6, as the second program of the 2009-2010 year for the **CONCERT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS**.

The performance, free to C.A.S.T. members, is open to all.

Adult single tickets are \$20; student single tickets are \$20. Tickets will be on sale only at the door, starting thirty minutes before the performance, which begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Nederland High School Performing Arts Center, located off Spurlock Road.

Season tickets for the last four concerts will also be on sale for \$40 at the door.

The group, which has performed from Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. to England, Mexico, Austria, Scotland, and both St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel in Vatican, has received rave reviews everywhere, Jayne Smith, C.A.S.T. spokesperson said.

A Salzburg, Austria, reviewer said, “...probably one of the finest American choirs we have heard at the Salzburg Dome with precise singing and perfect intona-

This is the last ISSUE
of 2009. The next edition
will be February.
Deadline for submissions
is Jan. 8.

tion.” Robert Shaw, choral leader, said, “Outstanding singing...one of the best Boychoirs I have worked with,” according to a release.

The group has appeared on “Good Morning, America,” a national TV special with Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, and Willie Nelson, and with Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers. They performed at the inaugural festivities for President George Bush.

Founded in 1982 by William R. Adams, artistic director of the choir, the group now has five performing ensembles with 200 choristers whose voices have not yet changed. Members are chosen by audition.

Their program will include music both serious and light, classical and popular.

For information, call 409-727-5215 or 409-962-7684.

The **TRIANGLE AIDS NETWORK** honored community activist and longtime Beaumont businesswoman **PAULA “TORCHY” SALTER** with the 2009 Red Ribbon Hero Award for her untiring efforts on behalf of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Tam Kiehnhoff, medical case management coordinator for TAN, announced the selection of Salter to receive TAN’s highest honor at “Paint the Town Red: The Phantom of the Opera,” at the Beaumont Country Club on Nov. 5. The event, now in its 16th year, is the nonprofit agency’s largest source of private funding.

Salter was honored as a TAN advocate “whose zest for life and flair for helping others has lent a spirit of love to Paint the Town Red,” according to the inscription on her award.

“The thing about Torchy is that she is willing to do whatever it takes,” Kiehnhoff said in a release. “Because she is involved in so many events, she knows the nitty-gritty of pulling things together, all the way from soliciting high-dollar table attendees to gluing gemstones on the centerpieces to sweeping the floor.

“She’s been there every single year for us, asking what we need and then doing it. She doesn’t just put her name behind an event. She does behind-the-scenes stuff too. Because of her outgoing and embracing personality, she makes people want to join in the fun, join in the work and join in the event.”

Salter has been a leading supporter of Paint the Town Red and TAN since the gala’s inception in 1992. The Friends of TAN enlisted her support before proceeding with the event and she gave that support wholeheartedly, said Jeff McManus, chair of Paint the Town Red and a TAN board member.

She was well known for two decades as the owner of Torchy’ boutique, and, during the early years of Paint

the Town Red, co-chaired the fashion show that was then part of the event. She also has served the organization as a volunteer, contributor, centerpiece designer, “celebrity spotter” and in many other capacities.

Born in the small town of Wautoma, Wis., Salter moved to Chicago, where, while in her early 20s, she worked as a buyer for Gimble’s department store. She came to Beaumont when she was recruited to become a buyer for The Fair Stores. Salter was instrumental in establishing The Studio boutique in the early 1980s. She opened her own shop, Torchy’s, in 1986 — and the rest is history.

From the original location in Old Town, she relocated to St. Charles Plaza. Her efforts on behalf of persons living with HIV/AIDS extended to her business, with lapel pins fashioned in red crystal to depict the AIDS awareness ribbon gracing her jewelry counters.

Salter has supported causes throughout the community from the Art Museum of Southeast Texas and The Art Studio, Inc. to the Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” program to the Lamar University Friends of the Arts and Le Grand Bal and Communities in Schools.

She recently stepped down after six years as an AMSET board member. According to a museum spokeswoman, Salter “raised the bar on successful fundraising.” She chaired numerous fund-raisers, including three galas. Salter continues to serve on the art museum’s advisory board.

She has supported The Art Studio, as a fundraiser and providing refreshments for dozens of show openings. She also served on its board of directors.

Salter served on the Gift of Life board of directors and chaired its “Champagne and Ribs” fundraising event. Communities in Schools roasted her at its “No-Chicken Roast.”

At Lamar University, she chaired Le Grand Bal, hosted by the Friends of the Arts, and is a veteran committee member.

“Paula Salter came into this community and has been a fireball of a doer,” said Carlo Busceme, III, a friend for more than 20 years. “Her desire to contribute to her environment has driven her to participate in all manner of community service. Torchy is a people person. When she talks to you, she is talking only to you. She is focused on your face, your words and your person. Her intensity is based on love. I’ve known her for 20-plus years, and her fervor has not waned. When she counts you as a friend, she becomes devoted.

“There is never a time too late or too early for sharing. Paula is a woman of great faith . . . which has served her well through these past years of trials — the loss of her father, mother, business, home, pets and health,” said Busceme.

Previous Red Ribbon Hero recipients, beginning with the most recent, have been Betty Greenberg, Debby Stasinopoulou, Bob Wortham, Steve Bean, Greg Busceme, Don Kelly, Archie Land, Louise Wood, Lynne Lokensgard, Ed Moore, Dr. Robert Pollard, Fred Angele, Sister Maria Geheb, Pat Papania, Jeff McManus and Dr. Frank Baker.

Paint the Town Red supports client services and educational efforts of TAN. This year, auctions featured about 300 offerings. Since its inception in 1992, the event has raised more than \$738,000 for TAN.

The Storm

Thought I heard you calling my name
Only the wind howling in the window pane.
Thought I saw you standing close by
Only a shadow from lightning in the sky.
Thought you touched me while lying in bed
Only the rain dripping instead.
Thought I smelled your manly cologne
Only the scent after the rain has gone.
The Storm is over — drifted on it’s way
Only to play tricks on another as they lay.

Marie LeBlanc

To A Happy Return

To write is to self examine
and correct. To correct is to improve
a winter’s blight to sweet, spring morning.
Sunlight owns its own cleansing wash
to hold and push a soul. A tree breathes
blooms in spring, bears fruit in fall.

To carry the motion of life into a language
of thought bears fruit for a human harvest.
My harvest is to marry rhythm of line
with poetry of color. In this union I have
made a happy return to my truest self.

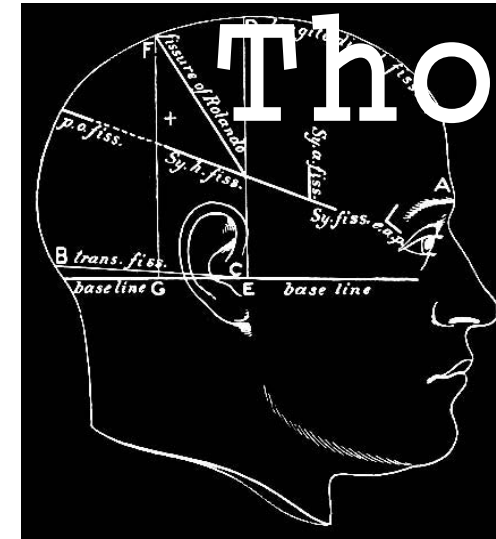
Congratulations, George, your service is perfect freedom.

George Wentz

Untitled

I went to see a play.
It was very funny.
It was about a man who didn’t have a clue.
He asked for directions, but everyone he asked sent him a different way.
It was very, very funny.
But I don’t think the man thought it so.

Andy Coughlan



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ISSUE solicits and publishes the work of local authors. Poetry, short fiction, scholarly works and opinion pieces may be submitted for review. All works must be typed or submitted on a disk (using approved word processing software), or may be sent to TASI by e-mail. All works are subject for review by our editor, and may be rejected or edited on the basis of grammar, spelling or content.

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Authors must submit a daytime telephone number along with all submissions. Pen names are acceptable, but authors must supply real names for verification. All submitted works become property of TASI, and whether rejected or accepted, are not returned to the author. ISSUE does not notify of rejection by mail or telephone.

Hell’s Bells

The arrival is a slow trickle
Names are exchanged like playing cards on a stoop
got it, got it, got it, need it
Out come the cups and ice and words are put together
in the kitchen before spilling out
into the den and the living room.

This night is a haze, filled with witches, spooks
and all manner of ghostly apparitions
The music hits hard and then out the door
into the crisp October air
You struggle to focus and the House of Mouse
has you in a strangle hold
“Every post is a ghost, when ya got a witches brew.”

Slam cut to a blur of yellow
and a door slam
Things are moving now, yes sir,
we are really going places
The air is thick with shouting and then silence
and the slow creep of tires, the low hum of bass
One last moment and then we really must go
just one last moment here.
We mustn’t keep Morpheus waiting.

Jeff Dixon

The Coupled Trees

Pine and oak have got no reason to be close,
yet side-by-side, for years, each raised the other up.
Their roots were all a ball, soon after starting,
so even now their limbs are locked in part.
If rot took hold of one, they both would die.
They know it, too, what else can they but do?

The children who lean between the trunks
pay no mind to what the coupling’s about.
They care not what it takes to stay two trees as one;
although, they know, it makes the climbing easier.
Boys are better at the task than girls in dresses,
and this is fine enough, for now, a few more seasons.

It won’t be long before some changes come.
A girl will choose a boy, or boy choose her,
then both will put down roots that run from side to side.
I hope, when they begin to grow together close,
that they remember days like these, and how,
between the coupled trees, each raised the other up.

Jesse Doiron

Terri McKusker

GEEK from page 9

turned tail and ran to the feds. Now you're in witness protection, working in some cubicle, pushing paper for a company you don't even like. But I hear you're putting on a mask at night Zack. I hear you're out there in the shadows busting up thugs on the street like some dark avenger. What gives? What is Zack Overkill up to these days?



GIVE UP THE GHOST — Brandi Carlile's newest album is perhaps the most perfect country record I've heard in years. It's old country and it sounds, at times, as heartbreaking as early Dolly Parton and Patsy Kline. This is a late entry in my top albums of the year and everyone who loves a good song about heart-break and regret should give it a listen.

NEW SUPER MARIO BROS. Wii — And for the first time, after years of DVDs, albums and books, finally a video game makes the list. This one was too good to ignore. For the first time in years Mario and Luigi make their 2-D return to a console. All you need to know about this game is that it's a 2-D old school Mario game with co-op mode. That's right, Mario and Luigi, together on the same screen, fighting evil and eating mushrooms and flowers. Oh bliss.

Well that's all I've got this year sports fans. If you need me I'll be watching the Houston Rockets try and claw their way through the basketball season like some sort of half crazed fallen deity, hell-bent on forcing me to scream "Are you kidding me?" hundreds of times over the course of each week. Mahalo!



VIEW from page 3

sure they are up on rent. Joanna Clark selflessly produces our theater festival and the repertory theater company TAKE A BOW and Chris Dombrosky produces the Boomtown Film Festival.

My daughter Olivia heads up the Band Nites, booking musicians and arranging events during the concert, as well as taking money at the door. You'll recall Olivia as my sales clerk during the Shop-O-Rama and exhibitions.

Beyond that, many people put themselves at the service of The Studio and are such fixtures that it is hard to see them as volunteers because they are seen as family. Heather Eager comes to mind.

Every musician playing in the Band Nite volunteers their music and time to advance the arts, as do our artists for any number of charities and causes.

Even so, there are myriad tasks that are not being addressed because of a lack of warm bodies to take on the challenge. This is not a unique problem as all nonprofits are subject to the economy

and the availability of the individual.

Our board has been skeletal at best, although the crew we do have have given sage advice, heroic support and impeccable guidance. It is time to give these folks a break.

You may want to assist The Studio in its continued success as a board member and have a say in the growth and the future of this organization. If so we are willing to listen.

The Studio has completed its goal which is to gain ownership of the facility. What lies beyond is a decision that needs to be made by a cross-section of this community, not by one individual and especially not by me.

Keep in mind that we all have a part in the growth of this organization and there is a place for you at the table.

The Studio is no longer a whim, a flash in the pan. We are a 25-year-old group that has survived some of the worst economic and political times with regard to the arts.

We have eked by so far and maybe one day will even thrive. But it won't happen without the contribution of ideas, hope and support of this community. It is only a building until people fill it.



Mission Statement

Founded in 1983, The Art Studio, Inc. is devoted to: providing opportunities for interaction between the public and the Southeast Texas community of artists; furnishing affordable studio space to originating artists of every medium; promoting cultural growth and diversity of all art forms in Southeast Texas; and providing art educational opportunities to everyone, of every age, regardless of income level, race, national origin, sex or religion.

PURPOSE

The purpose of The Art Studio, Inc. is to (1) provide educational opportunities between the general public and the community of artists and (2) to offer sustained support for the artist by operating a non-profit cooperative to provide studio space and exhibition space to working artists and crafts people, and to provide an area for group work sessions for those artists and crafts people to jointly offer their labor, ideas, and enthusiasm to each other.

GOALS

1. To present public exhibitions
2. To provide educational opportunities
3. To provide accessible equipment for artists
4. To provide peer feedback through association with other artists and crafts people

OBJECTIVES

1. To present 10 art exhibitions per year
2. To maintain equipment for artists in a safe working environment
3. To provide better access to artists for the public
4. To offer regularly scheduled adult and children's classes
5. To develop and maintain public activities with all sectors of the community
6. To develop and maintain equipment to aid artists in their work
7. To provide a display retail outlet for artists
8. To expand programming and activities with increased facility space

SOUTHEAST TEXAS Arts COUNCIL This project is funded in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts, Dishman Trust, Energy, HEB, and the Vic Rogers Foundation through the Southeast Texas Arts Council

SENIORS from page 6

"I noticed that people my age aren't responsible; they weren't raised 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 pride 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 overly offending 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 message. I wanted to say, 'be 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. Originally she wanted 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. 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 life," 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 paints, you can 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 overpaint 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 leave 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 Crommett, Maurice Ableman, Kevin Thomas, Dustin Baxter, Mya Bean, Travis Coatney, Byron O'Quinn and James Roach.

The show will be on display through Dec. 17.

The Dishman Art Museum is located at the corner of MLK Pkwy. and E. Lavaca on the Lamar University campus.

For more information, call 409-880-8959.



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- GEEK'S GIFT GUIDE
- THOUGHTCRIME: MUSINGS FROM AREA POETS
- MANUSCRIPTS AND TAPESTRIES AT THE STARK MUSEUM
- TASI MURAL PAINTING

ISSUE

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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 'THE ANNUAL
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DECEMBER 5, 7-10 P.M. ADMISSION IS FREE

SOUTHEAST TEXAS *This project is funded in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts, Dishman Trust, Entergy, HEB, and the Vic Rogers Foundation through the*

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BEAUMONT CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU	801 MAIN (IN CITY HALL)
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THE VORTEX	11TH STREET
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PARKDALE

RAO'S BAKERY	4440 DOWLEN
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ORANGE

STARK MUSEUM OF ART	712 GREEN AVE.
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