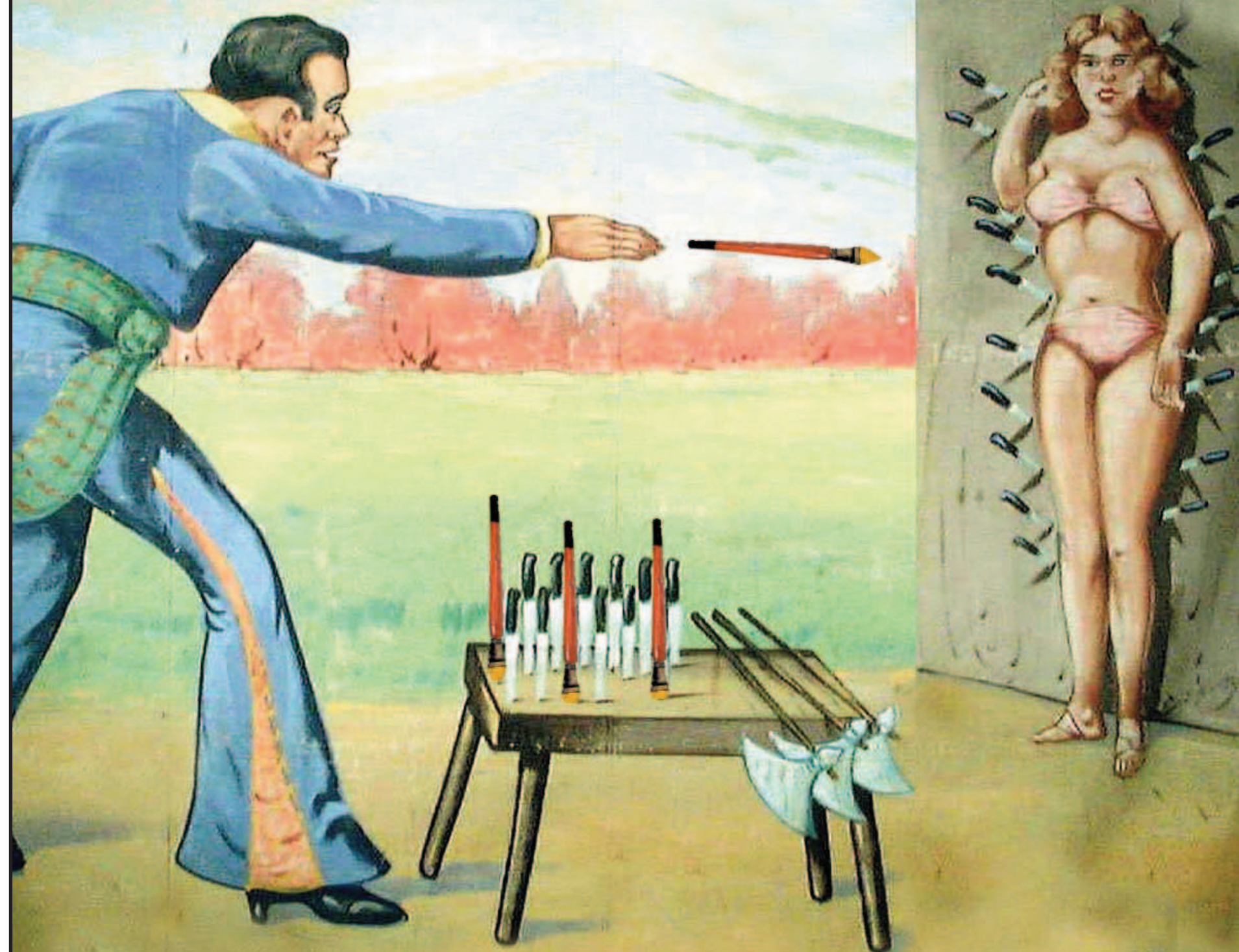


ISSUE

THE ARTS MAGAZINE OF THE ART STUDIO, INC.

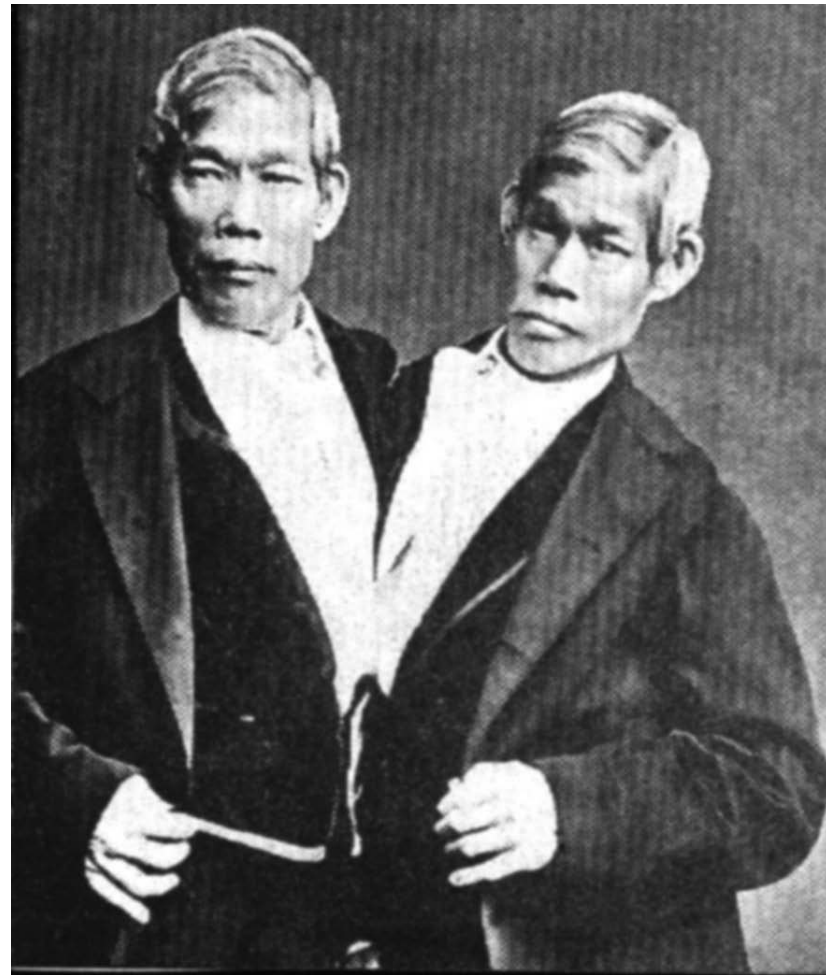
DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
IMAGINARIUM**

Page 4

**INSIDE:
GEEK'S GIFT GUIDE,
BOOK BAZAAR,
BEAUTIFUL MINDS,
SINTERKLAAS,
AND MORE**



From: bros2

sure, family membership 4 studio
would have been cheaper
but 2 memberships seemed right

don't forget beaux arts ball tix



SEE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 3.



ISSUE Vol. 17, No. 4

Publisher The Art Studio, Inc.
Editor Andy Coughlan
Copy Editor Tracy Danna
Contributing Writers Lluvvia Rueda
..... Chelsea Henderson, Jeff Dixon,
..... Elena Ivanova
Contributing Photographer... Chelsea Henderson
Distribution Director Terri McKusker

The Art Studio, Inc. Board of Directors

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..... Heather Eager

The Art Studio, Inc.
720 Franklin
Beaumont, TX 77701
409-838-5393
www.artstudio.org
artstudio@artstudio.org

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.

Contents

Imaginarium Beaux Arts Ball Page 4
Here Comes Sinterklaas. Page 6
Shop-O-Rama Page 7
Beautiful Minds Page 8
Geek's Gift Guide Page 10
Book Bazaar Page 12
Schwitters Review Page 13
Bequests. Memorials Page 15
Around & About Page 16
Thoughtcrime Page 17

Cover illustration adapted by
Andy Coughlan

A View From The Top

Greg Busceme, TASI Director



IT HAS BEEN A busy month for The Art Studio and promises to continue to be so well into December.

Along with our usual November fare, we also hosted part of the Gulf Print Storm Nov. 19, exhibiting the steamroller print and work from the guest artists in the workshop. We at The Studio wish to thank the generosity of our November exhibitor, Lief Anson Wallace who selflessly allowed his show to come down for this special event. Lief's work returned to the walls the following day. It is cooperation like this that is the backbone of Studio life.

For lack of a place for Band Nite to be presented, we took up residence in the intermediate clay space/class room. There is a sacrifice for the clay artists each month as we work toward moving outside and eventually accessing a new facility to accommodate our growing musical venue.

We also have been renting space for private parties, meetings and weddings to help cover our operating costs. We were happy to host the Triangle Aids Network's HallowQueen party. It was our first time to host it and we hope it will be an annual event like the Garden Party each spring.

As I write this, we are getting ready to celebrate TAN's Paint the Town Red event, their big annual fundraiser. The work

these dedicated people do is indispensable for a healthy prospect for their clients. TAN, we love you!

We are attempting to start life drawing again. Anyone interested can meet with us on Wednesdays at The Studio, from 6-8 p.m. for life drawing. There is no instructor so you need some basic background in drawing, but don't be intimidated — none of us are THAT good!!

We also are on the search for models to pose for the class. You must be 18 or older and be able to sit still for 20 minutes while we draw. We are not particular about size or shape or age, just that you arrive on time and hold still. We pay \$10 an hour. If you are interested in drawing or posing, call us so we have an idea if anyone is going to participate.

Beginning Nov. 13, yoga instructor Nina Raab began offering free yoga classes at The Studio on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. She calls it karma yoga because she would like to pay back all the good things that have happened to her in her life. We will accept voluntary donations, all contributions will go to The Art Studio. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a risk free

See VIEW on page 19

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE ART STUDIO

DECEMBER

Holiday Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza
Opening December 4

FEBRUARY

Amelia Wiggins
Opening February 5

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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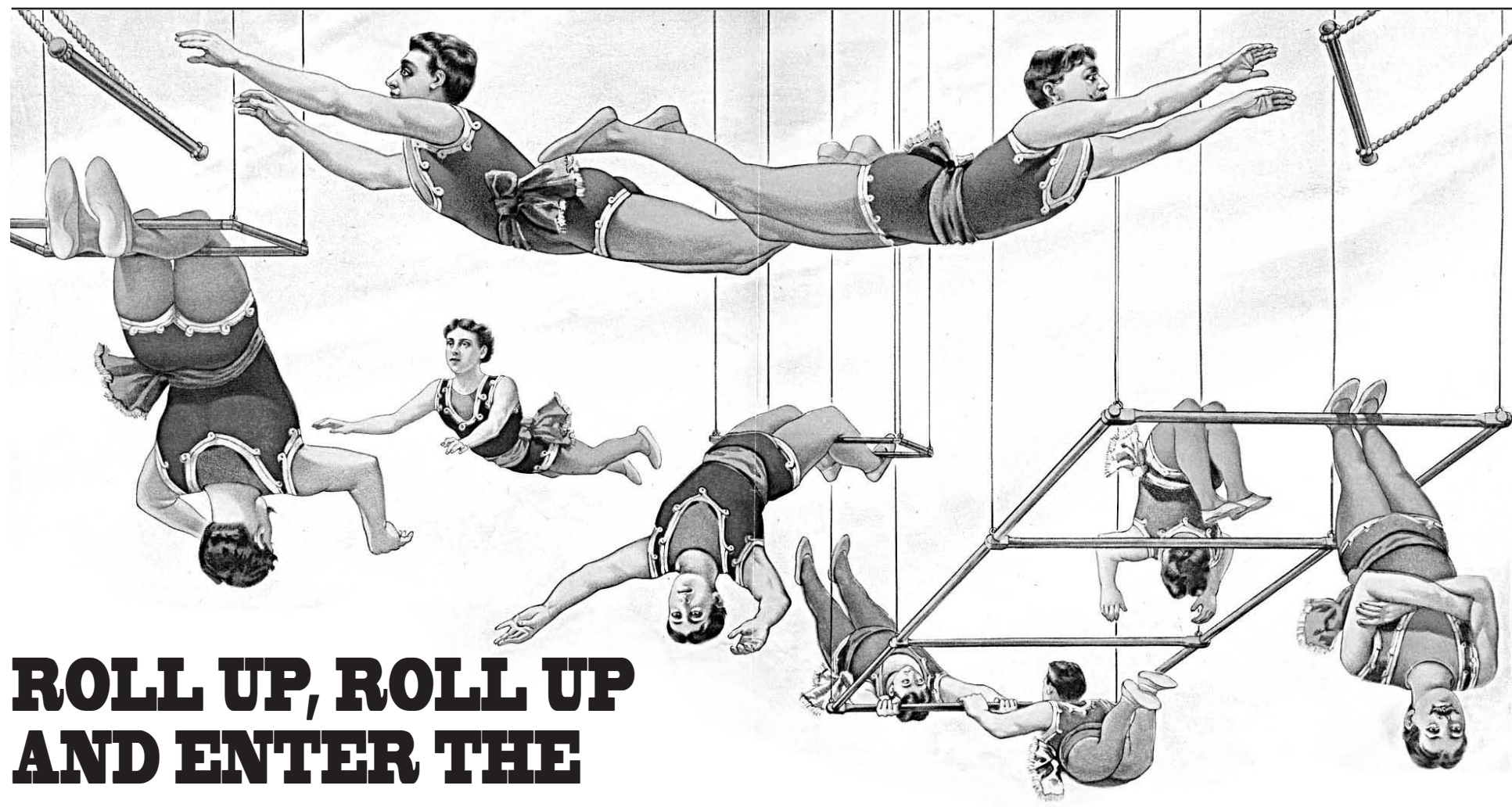
SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT

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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New? _____ Renewal? _____ Artist? _____ If yes, list medium _____

The Art Studio, Inc. 720 Franklin, Beaumont 77701



ROLL UP, ROLL UP AND ENTER THE IMAGINARIUM

Beaux Arts Ball to bring fantasy world to Beaumont



WHAT: Beaux Arts Ball, "The Imaginarium: Gypsies, Thieves and Vagabonds"

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 22

TIME: 8 p.m. to midnight

WHERE: American Legion Hall, Post 33 at 1320 Pennsylvania St. in Beaumont

TICKETS: \$50 each. Available at The Art Studio and at the door

HOW TO HELP: Silent auction items will be accepted until the day of the auction. If you would like to donate artwork or other items, please call 409-838-5393 or come by The Art Studio located at 720 Franklin St. in downtown Beaumont.

Story by
Lluvia
Rueda

THE EXTRAVAGANCE, THE DECADENCE of gay Patee once again will tempt Southeast Texans to a night of artistic bliss during this year's Beaux Arts Ball.

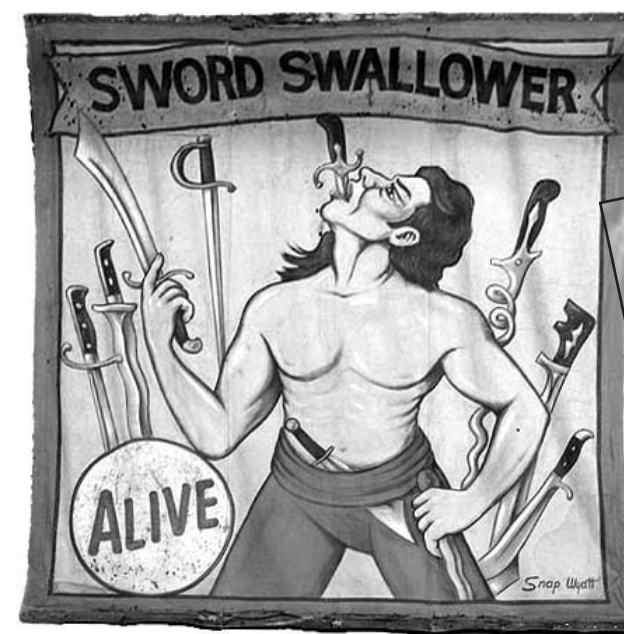
"We are really excited about it," said committee chairman Christopher Plauty, a realtor for ReMax in Beaumont.

"It's going to be a stimulation of the senses. We are going to have fire dancers, belly dancers, a live D.J. and we are also going to be working closely with a lighting-and-sound technician to try out some really unique lighting effects," he said of the event, which will follow a circus theme.

This year's Beaux Arts Ball, "The Imaginarium: Gypsies, Thieves and Vagabonds" will take place 8 p.m. to midnight, Jan. 22, at the American Legion Hall Post 33 in downtown Beaumont, near the port and just a few blocks from The Art Studio.

The theme is based loosely on the 2009 movie, "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," which stars Christopher Plummer, Lily Cole and the late Heath Ledger. It revolves around main character Dr. Parnassus, who controls a sideshow troupe that gives his audience a chance to enter a world where wishes can come true.

"We are extending an open invitation to the community and want to make the theme something that would attract people from all walks of life, you know? So along with the traditional masquerade costumes, people should also expect to see gypsy, corporate and casual wear during the ball. It's all about promoting the creativity, freedom and imagination



that is so prevalent in the art world," Plauty said.

The hall will be decorated in a vintage style, complete with colorful streamers, decorative trapezes, and much more. Partygoers are encouraged to wear any type of clothing they desire; circus, cocktail, vintage, costume and formal wear are all welcome.

Along with sideshow attractions such as sword-swallowers, audience members will be treated to a few unexpected surprises, said Plauty.

"We have a few things in the works, and let's just say that we think this is going to be a very exciting — if not the most exciting — Beaux Arts Ball so far," Plauty laughed.

Attendees should plan to come early to take advantage of the silent auction, which will remain open from 6 to 8 p.m. The auction will offer an array of art, among other items such as furniture and antiques. All participants are encouraged to take advantage of the BYOB opportunity as well.

Last year, spectators were treated to a Technicolor affair after an absence of the Ball for a few years, said executive director Greg Busceme.

"We started it in '89, and it was a spin-off of a Lamar event developed from their art department. They left off putting it together and that's when we took it over. It was a big hit, but it takes a lot of people to put it together, and that's when we struggled to put it together over the years until recently," Busceme said.

The non-profit organization's previous premier fundraiser ball was a success, raking in a grand total of \$7,000 and boasting nearly 120 attendees.

The Art Studio revived the Beaux Arts Ball tradition in 2008, with a "Back in Black" theme to recognize its return after masquerading as a lecture-type series for a few years, Busceme said.

This year, the committee hopes to raise \$10,000 or more for the Art Studio's general fund which will supply monies for art supplies, outside and community projects and Studio events. Plauty said he is expecting 200 to 250 people to show up for the event.

Although this is the first year that he has chaired the event, Plauty has put together events for other local organizations over the years, including The Garth House and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. He also feels a deep connection to the Art Studio, due to a close friendship with a former patron.

"I was originally introduced to the Art Studio by Torchy (owner of the former Torchy's boutique in Beaumont), who was a great fan of the organization. I got to know the people and their art, and I felt honored to carry on her tradition of encouraging Southeast Texans to support their local community," Plauty said.

Co-chair and local business owner Trisha Faye, who has been involved with the studio for more than 10 years, echoed Plauty's sentiments.

"It seems like I have always been tied to the Art Studio, in one way or another. Mutual friends introduced me to some of the patrons there, and I just fell in love with the work they did there and the way it was open to everybody. It is a place that encourages community participation: everyone from a 16-year-old novice to an experienced, award-winning artist can show their work here," Faye said.

About 25 volunteers are still needed to spearhead event coordination, Plauty said. All interested parties should contact The Art Studio at 409-838-5393 for more information.



Here comes Sinterklaas

SAINTS, MYTHS LED TO CREATION OF ICONIC CHRISTMAS IMAGE

Commentary by
Elena
Ivanova

WHEN THE WHITE CURTAIN of the first snow started to veil the skyline of my native city of Leningrad, I, together with millions of Soviet citizens, waited with bated breath for the arrival of the only non-political holiday we had. No, it was not

Christmas. The officially atheist people of the USSR did not observe religious holidays. We celebrated the New Year.

Each family installed a freshly cut fir tree in their living room and, oblivious of its religious significance, surmounted it with a star. We thought it referenced the ruby stars on Kremlin towers. At the foot of the tree, hidden among the branches, a figure of a bushy-browed, white-bearded old man invariably took its place. We called him Grandpa Frost. In Christendom, he is known as Saint Nicholas, or Santa Claus.

Technically, Saint Nicholas has nothing to do with Christmas or the New Year. According to the Christian calendar, the feast of St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, also known as St. Nicholas of Bari, is on Dec. 6, the day when he passed away in the year 343. It is not surprising that the atheist population of Soviet Russia was largely unaware of this fact. However, even church-going boys and girls in Western Europe and the U.S. expect a visit from Santa on Christmas Eve.

The eventual amalgamation of two holidays — Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas — both in December, both involving gift exchange, was probably inevitable. The confusion in regards to what (or who) is the reason for the season led Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the authors of the South Park series, to the creation of the infamous hand-animated, pre-South Park episode, “The Spirit of Christmas: Santa vs. Jesus,” in which Jesus and Saint Nick resort to martial arts to sort it out.

So who was Saint Nicholas? Is he different from Santa Claus? Does he or does he not express the spirit of Christmas?

Historically, the man who was destined to become the most popular saint in the whole of Christendom was Greek by birth. He was born in the Greek colony of Patara in Lycia (part of modern-day Turkey), the only son of wealthy parents, during the third century. After his parents died in an epidemic, the boy was raised by his uncle, the Bishop of Patara. He nurtured the young Nicholas as a reader and later as priest. Nicholas also spent a brief period of time at the Holy Sion monastery founded by his uncle. He was made the Bishop of Myra while still a young man.

Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity, having spent his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering.

Exiled and imprisoned during the rule of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who severely persecuted Christians, Nicholas demonstrated extraordinary strength of character by providing spiritual support to the incarcerated fellow Christians as well as to criminals. Upon his release, Nicholas attended the

Council of Nicaea in the year 325. He was buried in his cathedral church in Myra, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance was believed to have healing powers, which fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas.

Several countries, including Greece, Russia and Switzerland, claim Saint Nicholas as their patron saint. The list of troubles he can help to alleviate is endless and ranges from imprisonment to having a hard time getting married. However, since medieval times, he was mostly recognized as the patron of

children.

There are two legends that led to the emergence of this tradition. According to one of them, Saint Nicholas miraculously resurrected three young boys (in some versions, students or clerks) who were murdered by an evil inn-keeper. Although their bodies were cut in pieces and thrown in a pickling barrel, they were made whole by the Bishop who was pass-

See SANTA on page 14



Thomas Nast's rendition of Santa Claus from Harper's Weekly

THE HOLIDAY SHOP-O-RAMA EXTRAVAGANZA



ORIGINAL ART MAKES PERFECT GIFTS AT ANNUAL ART STUDIO SALE

Story by
Andy
Coughlan

THERE ARE CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS we have at this time of the year.

We expect people to be festive and jolly (although the traffic jam at the mall tests one's capacity for joviality).

We expect peace on earth and goodwill to all men (although there are still conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan — and that's just the ones we are involved with).

And the tranquil scenes of snow gently drifting from the night sky while children with angelic voices sing carols.

OK, so maybe our expectations are not always met, but there is one thing we can count on — great art at great prices by local artisans will be on display at The Art Studio in December.

The Holiday Shop-O-Rama Extravaganza makes its annual appearance, Dec. 4-23. The sale opens at noon on Dec. 11 and there will be a gallery reception that evening, beginning at 7 p.m.

“It's a unique opportunity for artists to sell their work to people who want to buy something completely unique for everybody on their list,” Elizabeth French, TASI administrator, said.

As usual, an eclectic mix of painting, ceramics and crafts will be on display. Artists can set up any time starting Nov. 30, but tables must be ready by 5 p.m., Dec. 3. Artists are responsible for supplying tables and displays.

The Shop-O-Rama draws a regular group who depend on the show for filling their gift lists.

“We have people who traditionally come every year to buy for people on their list and they say, “What have you got this year?”” Greg Busceme, TASI director, said. “We never know either until the artists start setting up.”

“Even if you came last year it's not going to be the same, because different artists do different things,” French said.

The emphasis is on creating affordable items for the show. The artists involved understand that while people may buy art for themselves, the purpose of the show is to buy gifts. Many of the items will be available for as little as \$10, but

there will be a selection of higher priced items as well.

“It's handmade, original art produced here in town,” Busceme said. “It's produced by manufacturers in this city. It's an arts and crafts movement.”

French said that it encourages artists to think about producing work specifically for a market.

“It encourages artists to do something that is ‘pick-upable,’” she said.

“Purchasable,” Busceme added.

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.

However, everyone is welcome to participate. The only criteria is that the work must be original to the artist. The Studio charges a nominal 25 percent commission on works sold.

The Art Studio, Inc. is located at 720 Franklin in downtown Beaumont. Shop-O-Rama hours are 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

For more information, call 409-838-5393.

Beautiful Minds

ARTISTS PROVE CREATIVITY HAS ABILITY TO SOOTHE, HEAL, INSPIRE



Story and photos by
Andy Coughlan

“CREATING SOMETHING OUT OF nothing is a beautiful thing.”

Tuesday Marler smiles proudly as she points out the different artworks that cover the walls of the Nick Nides Self Help Haven. Bright sunlight illuminates the tables as a handful of artists sort through tubes of colored paints.

They look and act like any other artist.

And that's the point — they are like any other artist.

To the world outside the Haven, these artists are simply people struggling with mental illness. But inside, this creative “school of artists” support each other and share tips on color and composition.

The result of their work will be on display at the Beaumont Art League, Dec. 11, in “A Beautiful Mind.” The exhibition/fundraiser opens with a reception from 7-9 p.m. The works will be sold at a silent auction.

Marler, program coordinator and one of the exhibiting artists, began the art program nine months ago.

“One day I said, ‘God, what can I do that will bring out something?’ And art was put in my heart,” she said. “It’s a way for them to create.”

“A lot of their self-esteem was taken from them by mental illness. If you rebuild that with something positive and emphasize strengths, what’s better than to start it that way.”

The Nick Nides Self Help Haven is a day center for people with mental illness to have an outlet to recovery and wellness,” she said. “It’s for them to have a full life as opposed to being at the house or on the street.”

“It allows them to know more about their illness — which they know more about than anyone — and to offer more.”

Marler said that the participants in the program are goal-oriented and want to get more out of their lives.

“It’s a place for people to make opportunities for themselves and to know that recovery is possible,” she said. “They get to be around like-minded people instead of being surrounded by people who don’t want to do anything. They have communication and friendships that form positive relationships.”

Marler said she expects the show to feature work by more than 25 artists who come and go at the Haven. The program is open Monday through Thursday.

Marler has been involved with the program for six years.

“I found out I had a mental illness and I wasn’t OK with where my life was going,” she said. “I wanted to step out and have a better life. I started working here one hour a day, one day a week.”

“I just kept on working at it and working at it.”

Marler said she came up with the idea of having an art exhibition at the League to show that the work of these artists has as much value as work by any other artist.

“I believe that just because you have a mental illness doesn’t make you less of a person,” she said. “I believe we should be on the same playing field and that we have the same qualities as people who don’t suffer from a mental illness and I don’t see it as a handicap.”



Artists, Sherri Pennington, far left, Tuesday Marler, left and Al de la Garza are among the artists who will show their work in the exhibition “Beautiful Minds” at the Beaumont Art League on Dec. 11.



“They painted it, they brought it out of themselves. Nobody here has any kind of training and I wanted them to show they are able to do this on their own.”

Marler said the group put the entire show together themselves, including the presentation and funding. “I didn’t want it to be, ‘Hey, please give us money so we can do this,’” she said. “I wanted them to do something where they could earn their way.”

Monies raised from the show will allow the group to support themselves and to take trips to museums in Houston or simply eat out together. It will allow them to do things other people get to do, Marler said, “Whereas on a check, they can’t.”

Having the show at a “proper” art gallery is important, she said.

“I didn’t want it to be something cheesy,” she said, adding that the artists want to be recognized for the quality of the work, not out of sympathy or pity.

“Through doing this art, people are feeling better about themselves, they are better motivated,” she said.

As Marler talks about the artists and their work, her passion for the program is evident.

“They are finding hope in something where there wasn’t any hope for such a long time in a lot of people,” she said. “That’s what matters — the human element of hope in life itself.”

“And what better way to show it than through art. There’s so much beauty in it. It expresses so much feeling.”

Marler said that art offers a constructive way for the group to work through issues and frustrations that come with dealing with their illness.

“You may have stuff going on, but when you paint and your done — it’s awesome,” she said.

Al de la Garza, like most of the artists, said he lets his inspiration dictate what type of picture he will create.

“I guess it’s just in what kind of mood I am,” he said.



He started painting with the group in February. Prior to his involvement, he said he just drew a little, “just copying things.” Like Marler, he believes in the therapeutic power of the creative process.

“When I am painting, the mood swings are not here and the stress goes away,” he said. “It pushes out the depression. Everything goes away. It’s that sensation or feeling of inner freedom — at least for the time being.”

De la Garza is excited about the show because he recognizes the value of the Haven.

“We are trying to collect funds to keep this going

for other people to get the same help I feel like I’m getting,” he said.

The show will feature paintings on canvas, board and paper, including some watercolors, a process Marler said the group is beginning to explore. The artists are expected to prepare the work to be show-ready. They exchange coupons for supplies and look for sales.

“It is not just about painting,” Marler said. “It

See MINDS on page 14

CHESTNUTS ROASTING ON

OUR ANNUAL GUIDE SERVES UP A NERD-SIZED

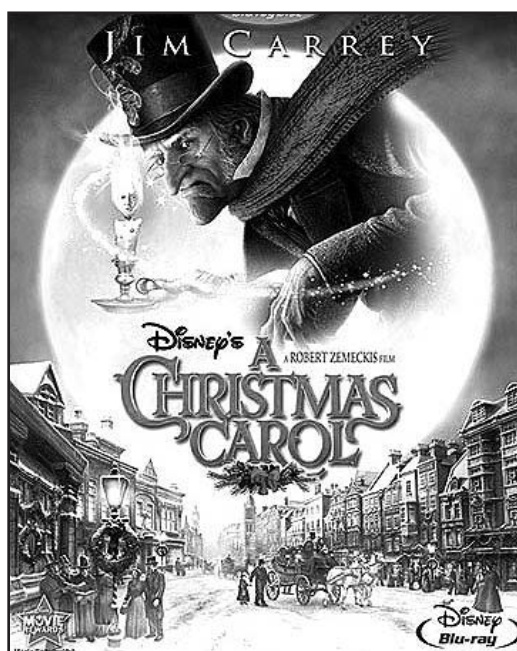
Commentary by Jeff Dixon

(Dixon puts words together on a regular basis. He is also a card-carrying member of Team Bullock)

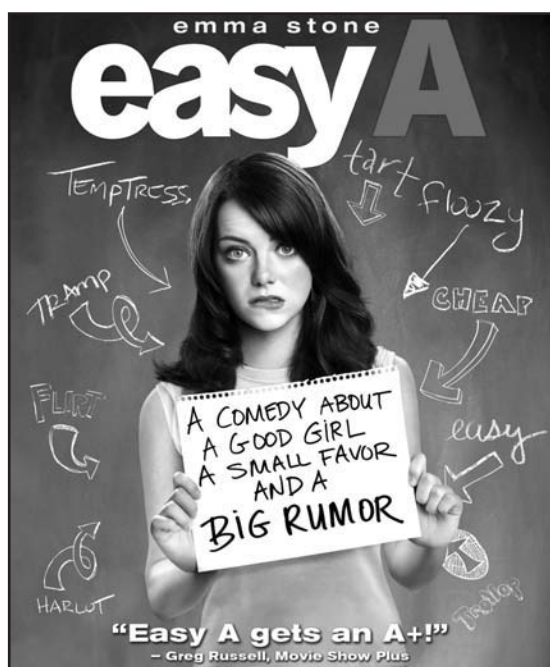


THAT COLD, BITTER WIND has blown through Southeast Texas and with it comes the holiday season (Yeah, I said holiday season, get a hold of yourself, you're bigger than that). Now I know what you're thinking, "I just can't figure out what to get my very pale friend that keeps chastising me for not owning 'Seven Samurai' on Blu-Ray." Well fear not, this guide will help give you a few ideas for that special person in your life (let's face it I'm talking about you most likely).

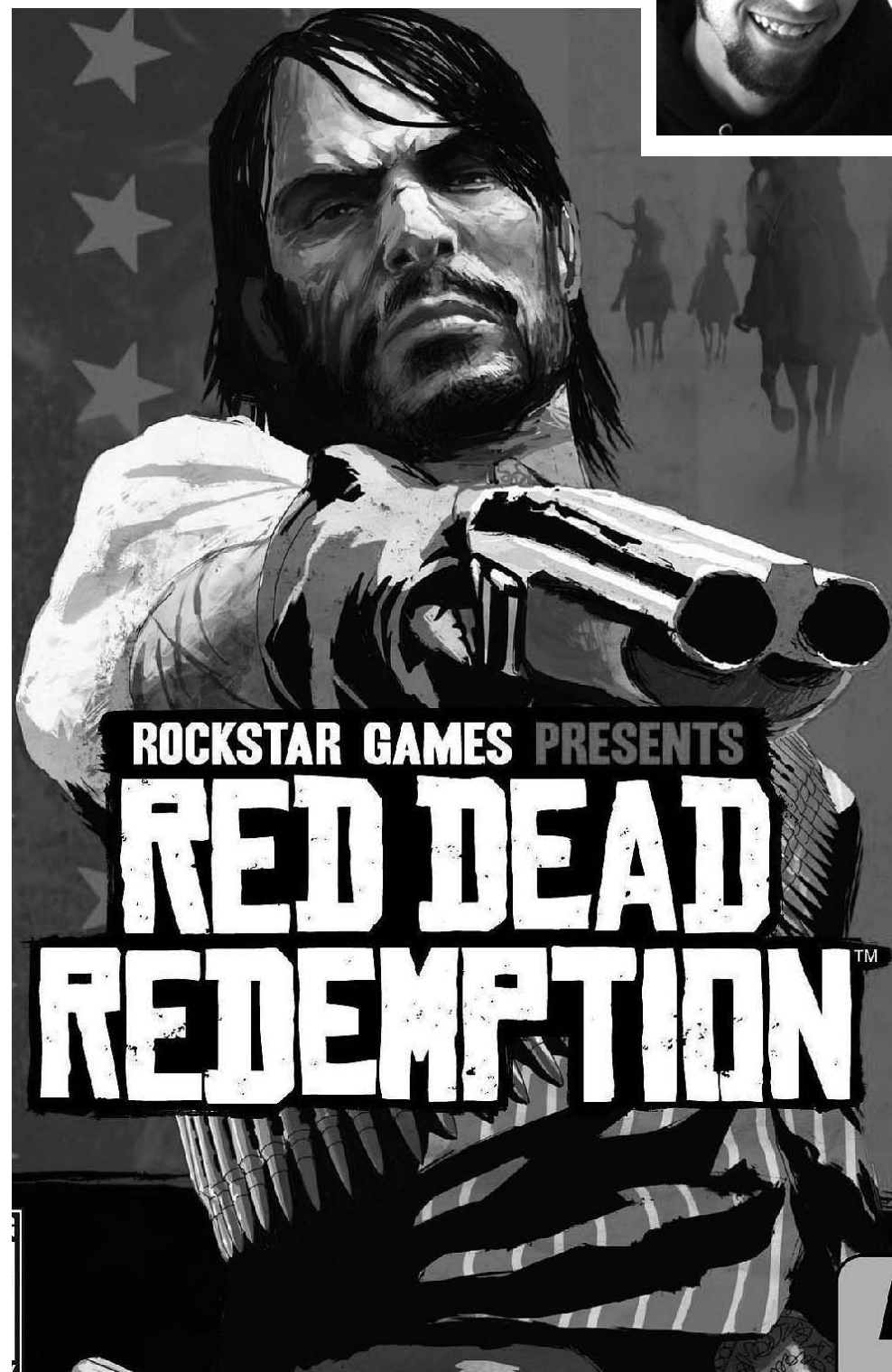
A CHRISTMAS CAROL — I would be remiss if I didn't include this brilliant film on my list this year. Honestly it's the best adaptation of the classic tale I've ever seen on the silver screen. You will find no too-cute-for-their-own-good references to pop culture here as you find in most animated films these days. Almost all of the dialogue is taken directly from the book by Dickens and it just flows so wonderfully that you'll, for the briefest of moments, forget that every year Christmas gets closer and closer to swallowing Thanksgiving whole like a snake eating a rat.



EASY A — This was a great "feel good" movie. It doesn't push the envelope farther than other comedies and it doesn't shed some new and interesting light on high school that makes you miss it, but it does entertain and provide all the right ingredients for a great comedy. Emma Stone is the funniest young actress working today, given the right material. Something tells me there are a ton of unproduced scripts in Hollywood that were put on hiatus once Lindsay Lohan spiraled into the train wreck she is now. I would bet good money that a lot of them are being dusted off and retooled for Stone and that is exciting.



RED DEAD REDEMPTION (FOR XBOX 360 OR PS3) — This is the best game I've played all year, without a doubt. Never has a game truly captured the feel and look of the old west. Set in 1911, the dying days of the west, the game chronicles the adventures of John Marston as he tracks down the members of his old

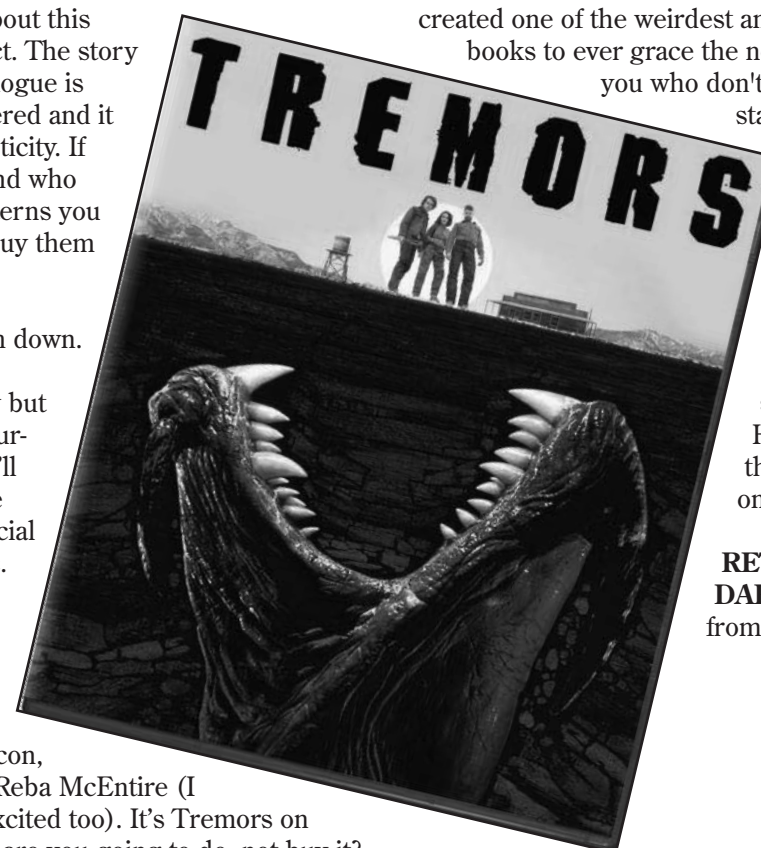


AN LED SCREEN

HELPING OF GEEK TREETS

gang. Everything about this game is pitch perfect. The story is engaging, the dialogue is crisp and well delivered and it just stinks of authenticity. If you have a pale friend who loves spaghetti westerns you absolutely need to buy them this game.

TREMORS — Calm down. I know, I know, it's Tremors on Blu-Ray but just get a hold of yourself. We good? OK I'll level with you; there aren't even new special features on this disc. We do get a behind the scenes look at the making of the film along with profiles (whatever that means) of Kevin Bacon, Michael Gross and Reba McEntire (I know, I know, I'm excited too). It's Tremors on Blu-Ray folks. What are you going to do, not buy it?



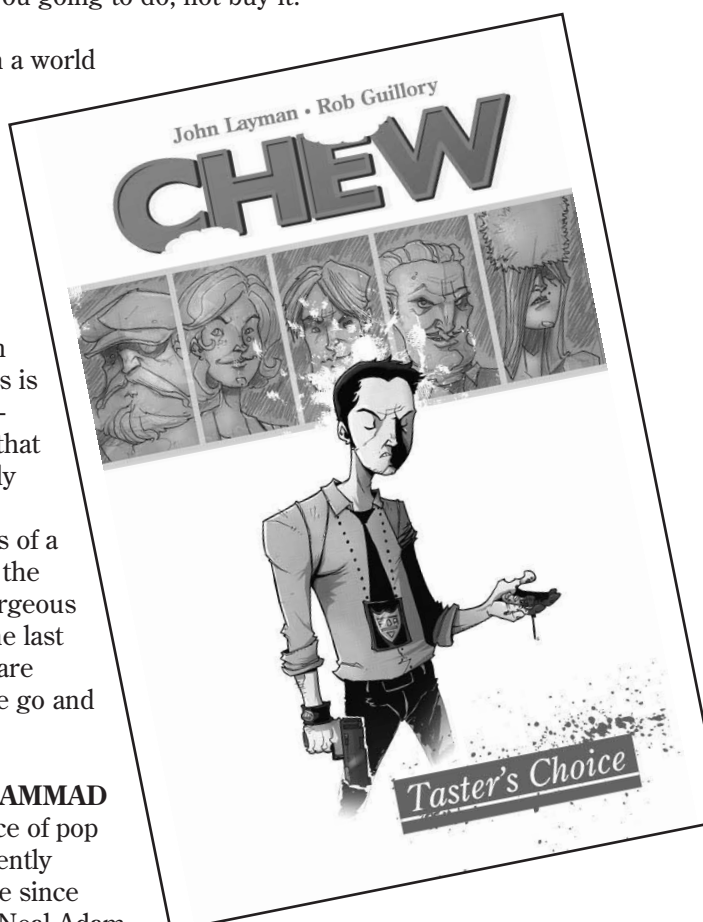
created one of the weirdest and most fun comic books to ever grace the newsstands (for those of you who don't remember, newsstands are places that used to sell comics, magazines, candy and newspapers). The art by Adams has never looked better than it does in this new hardcover which is really saying something. Honestly, in my opinion, this is the coolest thing on this list.

RETURN OF THE DAPPER MEN — Aside from having the best title for



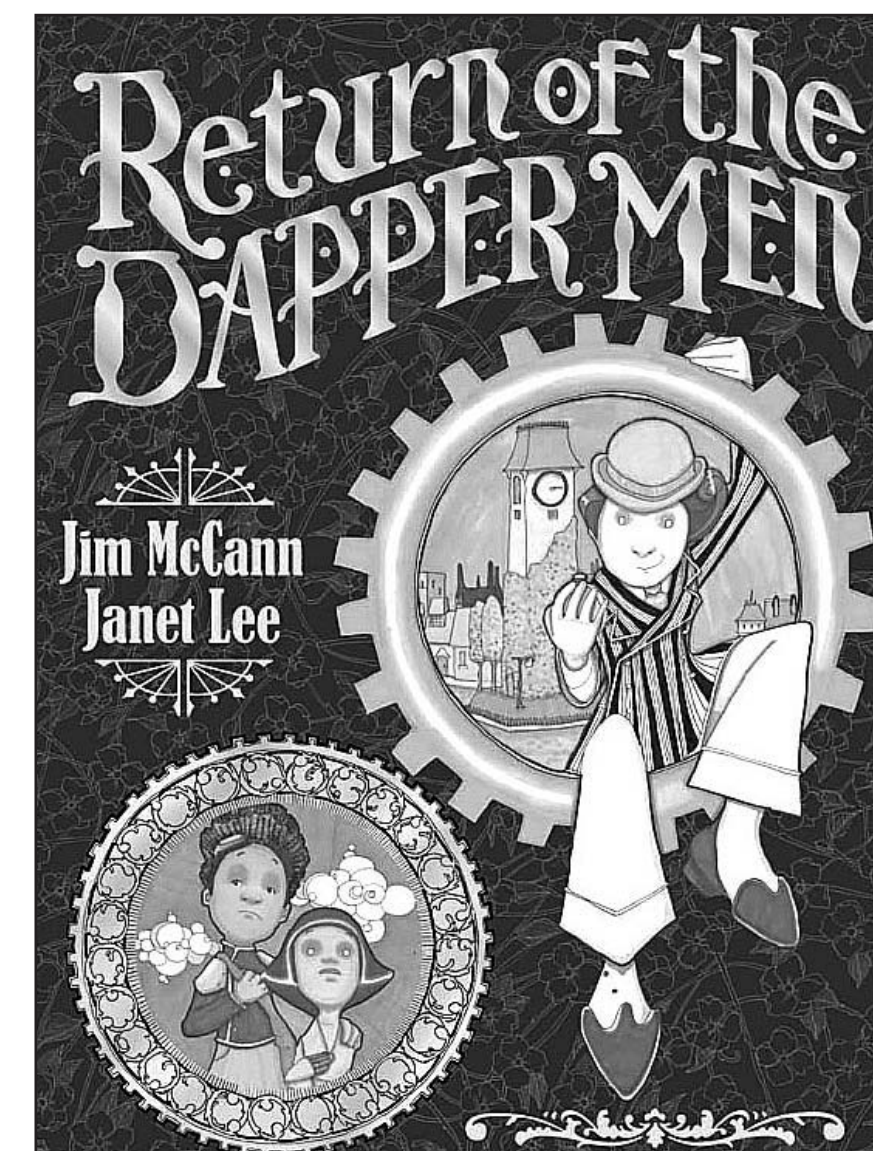
a comic book released this year, Return of the Dapper Men, is perhaps the most perfect fairy tale to find its home in the medium of comics. There's something for everyone in this book, young and old.

CHEW VOL. 1 — Set in a world where chicken is outlawed after an outbreak of bird flu killed 23 million Americans, this comic stars Tony Chu, a police detective who is also a cibopath, which basically means he gets psychic impressions from the food that he eats. This is probably the most consistently entertaining book that Image Comics is currently publishing. Writer John Layman hits all the marks of a good detective story and the art by Rob Guillory is gorgeous through and through. One last thing, in this book there are speakeasies where people go and eat chicken. Genius.



SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI — This amazing piece of pop culture madness was recently reprinted for the first time since 1978. Dennis O'Neil and Neal Adam

See GEEK on page 18





John Roberts leafs through a book at the Book Bazaar, an independent book shop located in the Mildred Building in Beaumont.

BOOK BAZAAR CATERS TO ALL

Story and photos by Chelsea Henderson

THERE IS A SHOP in downtown Beaumont where customers can immerse themselves in literature and art. It's the personal library book lovers dream of but never think they can have — until they walk in.

Whether it's art, occult, classics, or that complete set they've been dying to have, The Book Bazaar hosts works to interest everyone.

John Roberts opened his independent bookstore, located in the Mildred Building on the corner of Calder Ave. and MLK Pkwy., on Sept. 1. Originally from Orange, Roberts said he's always wanted to open his own bookstore.

"Beaumont doesn't have an independent bookstore where people can go sit down, drink a cup of coffee and read a good book," Roberts said. "I've always thought about having my own store, but I never really thought it could happen. When I moved into this building, I saw an opportunity with the space available. It was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

The Book Bazaar specializes in rare and out-of-print books. Roberts said that one-tenth of the selection in the store were either his or a family member's. The rest have all been purchased at private collections, estate

sales, and trips to New Orleans.

"Certain types of books, I go to New Orleans for — design, architecture, art, and some more rare copies of books," Roberts said. "Just in the French Quarter there are five independent bookstores, and throughout the city there's probably 20 to 25. I lived in Baton Rouge for five years before Hurricane Katrina, and I bought a lot of them then."

"Some are from private collections in Louisiana, Texas and the Northeast, and I've ordered some online from Europe. I've researched every one of these books to educate myself on what to look for to get the real deal. Publishers are really inconsistent with how they state a book is a first edition. In rare books, some never put that it was a first edition. You may have to look for a certain mistype that was corrected in other printings. There are ways of determining if something is a true first edition, and I've had to familiarize myself with what I need to look for."

Besides rare and out-of-print novels, Roberts said the store hosts large selections on history, art and architecture, first editions, classic works, biographies, fiction and cultural studies. He also has a smaller selection on occult topics.

"Once it really starts rolling, I plan on having more selection in certain areas like occult, art and architecture," Roberts said. "I want to have more quality than

quantity. I also have journals, eyeglasses, pens, pencils and bookmarks."

The Book Bazaar hosts several sets, and Roberts said he wants to sell them all together so they uphold their current value.

"I have a set of books on the South, Crown Masterpiece of Eloquence, the Franklin Library, sets of Classic Works, Irving's works, and some other ones," Roberts said. "The individual books will be cheaper if I sell them as a set. If I sold one of my Harvard Classics, it would depreciate the whole set by 75 percent."

Roberts said he is interested in purchasing individual's books, private collections or making a trade if a customer has something he really wants. He said he is also willing to negotiate if The Book Bazaar has something a customer needs to complete his collection.

The sets can be fairly expensive, but like all other items in the store, Roberts said that his prices are reasonable considering the condition each piece is in.

"This is not exactly a used book store where you can get a book for \$2," he said. "I have quite a few under \$10, and most of the first editions are between \$15 and \$20. Most of the books are hardback or leather-bound. I think the prices are reasonable for the quality that they

See BOOKS on page 19

ULTIMATE RECYCLER

SCHWITTERS EXHIBIT REVEALS ART TO BE FOUND IN DISCARDED OBJECTS

Review by Andy Coughlan

Houston — Germany in the early part of the century was not what one would call a joyful place. The depression of the '20s hit the country hard, leading to the rise of the Nazis in the 1930s, and World War II.

In the midst of this darkness, Kurt Schwitters found art. In the face of death, he found life. That he found it in the trivial and mundane things we

discard, is a testament to his vision.

Schwitters was the ultimate recycler. His complex and layered collages incorporate newspapers, cigarette packets, books, bus tickets, and chocolate and candy wrappers by the score.

His avant-garde creations are on display in "Kurt Schwitters: Color and Collage," at the Menil Collection through Jan. 30.

Born in Hanover, Schwitters studied painting in Dresden. In 1918, having returned home, he became friends with several members of the Berlin Dada group, whose anti-art stance challenged the traditional concept of what art should be. Although he never formally was a Dadaist — the movement itself was informal with different groups in several countries working independently — Schwitters was moved to search for new means of expression.

He coined the term "Merz" — from the German word Kommerz, meaning commerce — and developed a series of collages and constructions made from found objects. His goal was to "make connections, if possible, with everything in the world."

Nothing is off-limits. In "Merzbild 1," from 1919, he incorporates a cigarette as a vital compositional element, as well as lace, newspapers, bus tickets and corrugated cardboard in a relief panel. He incorporates paint in most of his collages. Isabel Schultz, in the exhibition catalog, writes that he "never stopped thinking of painting as central to his work. To him, the two techniques were not mutually exclusive but formed an integrated whole." The physical objects lose their identity and become abstract elements in the composition.

His earlier works have a cubistic influence as Schwitters plays with the notion of abstraction. Some of his deftly layered pieces, such as "Merz 1926,5 with Violet Velvet," are reminiscent Paul Klee's colored square compositions such as "The Florentine Villa District." Schwitters work also echoes the influences of Russian art from the late 1910s and early 1920s.

The artist recycles ideas as readily as he recycles society's debris. This is not a criticism. Many of the best



Peter Bissegger
RECONSTRUCTION OF KURT SCHWITTERS'S MERZBAU, left, original Merzbau ca. 1930-37, destroyed 1943, reconstruction 1981-83 154-3/4 x 228-3/8 x 181 inches Sprengel Museum Hannover

Photo: Michael Herling / Aline Gwose, Sprengel Museum Hannover © Peter Bissegger



Kurt Schwitters
MZ 11 STARKBILD, (Mz 11 Strong Picture.), above, 1919 Collage of cut and torn printed, metallic and tissue papers on paperboard Image: 4-1/2 x 3-5/8; Sheet: 11x 7-1/2 inches The Menil Collection, Houston Photo: Janet Woodard, Houston

artists are mere thieves, borrowing concepts and techniques, which in the hands of the true visionary becomes unique.

If it can be cut up and pasted on, Schwitters does it. One can imagine his philosophy as, "Have scissors, will make art."

He is very detail oriented. Even those collages that seem simple in appearance are revealed to be complex and multi-layered on close inspection. The amazing detail is impressive, especially in the small pieces that comprise tens of pieces. Sometimes the ripples in the paper — from the glue — give a clue as to the layers underneath. String and fabric are intertwined with letters and printed materials.

The Merzbild relief panels' rough-hewn quality belies their careful construction.

As the years pass, his work becomes more sculptural. "Shweut" (Sword), from 1935, reminds one of Brancusi's "Bird in Space" from 1923, albeit less polished.

His relief panels are 3D versions of Kazimir Malevich's suprematist paintings. "Merz 1924" is a relief construction that has shades of Mondrian and Ben Nicholson.

"Maraak, Var I," from 1930, offers a glimpse into Schwitters commentary on the world. In the midst of the Great Depression and the rise of the German war machine, he gives us a hard mechanized construction. But he also gives us a small butterfly that is, perhaps, a nod to a natural world slowly being dwarfed by technology.

"Pink Collage" (1940), has an oriental feel. The colors are pastel and there is a circle, a symbol of tranquility.

It has a subtlety that is at odds with the brutality of the war that is raging in Europe. Schwitters fled Germany for Norway. In the face of social darkness, Schwitters' palette lightens.

Interestingly, many of the collages from this period incorporate boxes and wrappers from chocolate and candy. It is as if he finds comfort in the frivolous. The fancy wrappers are at odds with the austerity of war. "Prikkua Paa" (Dot on the I), from 1939 and "Tastes Good" are perfect examples of Schwitters insightful commentary on the world.

There is a spirit of playfulness that underlies most of Schwitters' work. He does not hide from the realities of the world, but he finds the little things that add laughter and pleasure, as if saying that no matter what, there are moments that one can focus on to carry one through.

But the highlight of the show is the "Merzbau," a collage room that allows the visitor to literally step into the artwork and be engulfed by it. How often can one be immersed in a work of art? Reconstructed from photographs by the Swiss artist Peter Bissegger, the room has myriad angles that move one way then the next and intersecting lines that carry us up and out, seemingly continuing on past the physical boundaries of the room. An angled mirror reflects other angles, which in turn distorts our perspective. It has elements of an Escher drawing with its which-way-is-up optical illusions. There are also elements of the dream sequence from Hitchcock's "Spellbound."

See MERZ on page 19

SANTA from page 6

ing through town and divined the heinous crime. It is possible that the English horror story of the murderous barber Sweeney Todd originated from this legend.

In the other legend, Saint Nicholas saved three young girls from being sold into prostitution by the poor father who could not support them. The Bishop discreetly put purses with gold into the girls' stockings which were drying over the fireplace, thus providing dowry for them to be married.

In medieval times, the gold pieces referring to the dowry legend got sometimes interpreted as oranges. Since oranges most frequently came from Spain, this led people in Northern Europe to believe that Saint Nicholas lived in Spain and visited every winter bringing children oranges and other "wintry" fruits.

As time went on, Saint Nicholas' reputation as a children's super-saint with a bag of presents grew stronger. The roots of this tradition are believed to be Dutch. In the days leading up to Dec. 5, young children would welcome "Sinterklaas," who supposedly was on his way to the Netherlands from Spain. They put their shoes filled with a carrot or hay for his horse in front of the chimneys. On the next morning they would find a small present in their shoe: a bag of chocolate coins or a small toy. On the evening of Dec. 5, Sinterklaas would bring presents to every child who had been good in the past year. However, if a child had been naughty, Sinterklaas' travel companions, called the Zwarte Pieten ("Black Petes"), would mete out punishment, which ranged from whipping to putting all the naughty children in sacks to be taken to Spain.

In the United States, the rosy-cheeked, barrel-bellied Santa was a result of blending the traditions of the Dutch Sinterklaas, the German Sankt Nikolaus and the German folklore in reference to elves. In 1862, during the early days of the Civil War, the now familiar image of a jolly old fellow appeared on the pages of the Christmas season Harper's Weekly. Drawing on his German heritage, artist Thomas Nast used a kindly figure of Santa to represent Christmas and to memorialize the family sacrifices. Nast's pictures of Santa Claus were so popular that they were collected and reprinted in a book published in 1890.

Whether you call him Saint Nicholas, Santa or Grandpa Frost, this character fills the human need for a powerful, kind, merry and, of course, gift-bearing superhero. And please, no Zwarte Pieten. If he needs a travel companion, let it be a pretty girl called Snow White, who helps Grandpa Frost to hand out presents, according to the Russian tradition. He calls her "my granddaughter," which is a little puzzling since there is no reference to him ever being married. But then his American cousin Santa, formerly a confirmed bachelor, started to show up with a Mrs. Claus. Maybe at some point in Grandpa Frost's life there was a Mrs. Frost....

1 In the end of the 19th century, Russian intellectuals appealed to the authorities to abolish capital punishment by invoking the image of Saint Nicholas saving the innocently condemned from execution, as shown in the painting by the famous artist Ilya Repin.

2 For more information about St. Nicholas, visit www.stnicholascenter.org.

3 In the past number of years, there has been a recurrent discussion about the politically incorrect nature of the Zwarte Pieten and the racist connotations of these characters.

Elena Ivanova is chief educator of the Stark Museum of Art in Orange.



Unknown French artist, SAINT NICHOLAS, Book of Hours, Use of Paris c. 1510, paint, gold and ink on vellum, bound with 18th century French red morocco with gilding on the front and back. Stark Museum of Art 11.900.4



MINDS from page 9

teaches them how to shop, how to budget — just get into life where they weren't doing it before."

The exhibition promises to be an eclectic mix of styles. Some are abstract and some representational.

Sherri Pennington is working on a flower picture. She also said she doesn't have a preconceived idea of what she will do before she starts.

"I love texture," she said. "It just became flowers on that one. I have a whole bunch of ideas in my head that I just have to get on canvas. I could paint all day long. It relaxes me."

Marler said she expresses her-

self though color and texture, as she sits in the sunlight and paints an abstract piece.

She said that color is the one unifying theme among the artists, whether the art is abstract or representational.

If the show is a success, Marler hopes to make it an annual event.

"They are feeling really good about themselves," she said. "It's a whole other dimension of your soul when you paint.

"It's our journey."

The Beaumont Art League is located at 2675 Gulf St. in Beaumont.

For more information, call BAL at 409-833-4179 or Marler at 409-835-6253



Bequests, memorials allow for continuing support

FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT the arts, there is a satisfaction in helping their chosen arts organization, especially when the economy is tough and funding sources are drying up.

But what happens when these supporters are no longer around?

It's not something that most people want to face, but, like taxes, death is inevitable.

Some people take the opportunity to plan for their demise and arrange bequests to their favorite organizations.

When long-time arts supporter Rex Goode died, he left a portion of his estate to four local arts outlets, of which The Art Studio was one.

Others arrange for donations to be made in their name to help the arts. The Studio received several donations in the names of George Wentz and Paula "Torchy" Salter, both of whom had been members of The Studio since its inception.

"Our first huge donation was from Bob Willis," Elizabeth French, TASI administrator, said. "He gave us every book and all of his ceramic work that he had collected and made. Now we have this great collection that reflects what was going on in ceramics in the '80s."

"Which officially makes us a museum," Greg Busceme, TASI director, said, laughing.

Many people may think that non-profit organizations receive money from grants that cover costs. While it is true that grants play a large part in the operations, they are normally specific to certain areas — exhibitions, classes, outreach, etc. When people make donations, they help cover the cost of what French calls "the invisibles."

"It helps us with things that grants don't fund, such as improving the building," French said. "Brick and mortar

needs that are difficult to get grants for. Things like paint for pedestals — our new front door, thanks to Rex Goode. We also updated our fire extinguishers and fire alarms with the money from his bequest."

Although it may seem like your favorite non-profit is constantly asking for money — which it is — it is not something that they enjoy doing. Bequests and memorials are a good way to help without the organization having to come cap-in-hand.

Bequests need not be large amounts. "Usually it is friends of The Studio who are concerned with their last gift after they die," French said.

"Of course, we are still waiting for that unknown person from Oklahoma who dies and leaves us a million dollars," Busceme said.

Fundraising is a fine balancing act, especially when it comes to bequests. In the 1980s, there was a trend for museums to encourage people to make them the beneficiaries of their life insurance policies.

"But then membership dropped off when the older members said, "Well, you've got a life insurance policy and you will get our money when we die," Busceme said. is currently a beneficiary of one long-time member's insurance.

"They set up a foundation to split the money when the time comes," French said.

All non-profits are put in the business of begging for money, be it The Studio or the a large museum. Bequests and memorials are just a part of that. In an ideal world, everyone would have money to spare and the arts would never have to worry about anything.

But we don't live in an ideal world.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA RECEIVED THIS YEAR

TORCHY MEMORIALS 2010

- David, Marie & Leona Brittain
- Cynthia Fontenot
- Sam & Helen Danna
- Cheri B. Parigi
- Dennis & Rhonda McNally

WENTZ MEMORIALS 2010

- Joe & Carol Fisher, III
- Donnie & Julie Radly
- John & Cynthia Bowland
- Earl & Bettye Richmond
- Roger, Brenda & Jennifer Richmond
- Kaylea Deason
- Tom & Gay Dawson
- Krissy D. Richmond
- Faye & Warren Nelson, Jr.
- Jeanette & David Parsons
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Morgan
- The Girls: Cyndi Grimes, Rhonda Rodman, Sue Wright & Rhonda McNally
- Dorothy Jones & Family
- Richard & Sandra Laurette

IN HONOR OF CARLO & CHARLENE BUSCEME Olivia Serio

2010 ART STUDIO NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

- Marty Arredondo
- Don Ball
- Edward Begnaud
- Milton & Hester Bell
- Linnis & Duyen Blanton
- Sarah Boehme
- Jayne Bordelon
- Joe Boucher
- Sabrina Braus
- Leigh Brittain
- Christine Broussard
- Martin & Chris Broussard
- Broussard Cattle Co.
- Ange Busceme
- Carlo Busceme, III
- Mr. and Mrs. Carlo Busceme, Jr
- Michael S. Cacioppo
- Sylvia Clubb
- Andy, Renée, Trish Coughlan
- Brandi Crawford
- Ann Creswell
- Melanie Dishman
- Jesse Doiron & Uliana Trylowsky
- Colby & Trisha Faye Duhe
- Joe & Rosemary Elwell
- Xenia Fedorchenko
- David Fertitta
- Donald Fertitta
- Charles Fertitta
- Shelly N. & Michael J Filla .
- Cynthia Fontenot
- John & Janna Fulbright
- Donna Furry
- Pete Churton & Beth Gallaspy
- Suzanne Garrett
- J.C. & Theresa Giglio

- Giglio Distributing Co; Charles J. Giglio
- Ian Grice
- Cyndi & Pat Grimes
- Maria Guillory-Flippen
- Hardin County News
- Kyle Hayes
- Beverly Hickman
- Margo Holst
- Gisela Houseman
- Katie Hudson
- Herman, Sing-Sing & Ling Ling Hugg
- Damon Hulin
- Sallie Inman
- Mark & Elizabeth Jacobson
- Robert & Suzy James
- Teresa Johnson
- Andrew Johnson
- Tom & Nelda Jones
- Joseph Mendes & Mollie Mendes Family Charitable Fund
- Mary Jowers
- Paul & Anita Judice
- Jonathan Juhon
- Leonard Juncker
- DJ Kava
- Joyce Kean
- Keith Kebodeaux
- Sam & Wanda Keith
- Judy Keller
- Lynda Kerr
- Tam & Tom Kiehnhoff
- Debra Killian
- Avril Kimler
- Jim King
- Misty Kirkland
- Michael Kopta
- Dr. Mark & Betty Kubala
- Sirena LaBurn
- Dr. & Mrs. Ram Laksmanan

- Kip Lamb
- Floyd Landrey
- Greg Landry
- Richard & Sandra Laurette
- Debbie Lavergne
- Paul & Ashley Lawrence
- Sue LeBer
- Anthony LeBlanc III
- Wendy Ledbetter
- Andy Ledesma
- Bryan Lee
- Julie & Gerry Lee
- Michael Lee
- Fuchiawen Lien
- Lynne Lokensgard
- Mark Low
- Stephan & Renee Malick
- Robert Martinez
- Michael Mathews
- Douglas Mattingly & Rosalyn Cobbold
- Peggy Scott
- Donna Meeks
- Mildred Morgan
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Morgan
- Montie & JoLynne Morgan
- Nel Morrison
- Kay & Bernard Mott
- Julie Mullins
- Deborah & Roxy Murphy
- Dave Nance
- Neches Engineers
- Faye Nelson
- Jim Oaks
- Steven & Casey Ochoa
- Hubert Oxford
- S Panchal
- Lisa & Sam Parigi
- Dale & Cindy Parish
- Larry Parsel

- Jeanette & David Parsons
- Lou Ann & Hoke Peacock
- Rose Perkins
- Cynthia & Chris Perkins
- June Peveto
- Joyce Philen
- Sandra & Rodney Price
- Sebastian Ramirez
- John Raney, Jr.
- Lisa Reinauer
- Lynn & Sheila Reynolds
- Mark Richard
- Terry Richard
- Lisa Richardson
- Chris & Erma Richter
- John Roberts
- Zia Rogers
- Regina Rogers
- Letitia Rogers Payne
- Jerrie Sachitano
- Carolyn May
- Sam J. (Boo) Serio
- Ranjit Singh
- William Sizemore
- Deborah & Eric Snyder
- Margaret Solito
- Mary Speer
- Rose Stark
- TL Thomas
- Sherry Tiger-Landry
- Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc.
- Thich Viet
- Rhonda & Nick Vratiss Family
- Leif Anson Wallace
- Amelia Wiggins
- Nell Williams
- John G. Woodard
- Chuck & Sue Wright
- Nathan Wright

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 **ICE HOUSE MUSEUM** in Silsbee has announced the winners of the **BIG PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2010**.

Sue Wright won Best in Show for “Waiting for the Mail.” The award includes a solo exhibition in 2011.

In the color category, first place was awarded to Lori Sanders for “Color Burst.” Second place went to Michelle Holland for “Circle of Life,” and third place went to Heidi Odom for “Thinking of You.”

Honorable mention went to Alex Guajardo, John Phillips, Sherry Gibson and Amanda Adair.

In the black and white category, first place was awarded to Kathy Hardt for “Natural Beauty.” Second place was awarded to Michelle Holland for “Promise of Beauty,” and third place went to Vicki Fondrick for “Tinkerbell Wishes.”

Honorable Mentions went to Alex Guajardo and Gary Pinkerton.

Jow Winston, photography professor at Lamar University, judged the contest.

The **TEXAS ARTISTS MUSEUM** will host a **CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP** for kids ages 6 to 12 on Dec. 4. Cost is \$15. Registration deadline is Nov. 29.

On Dec.12, TAM will present the **OUT OF CONTROL** women’s quartet, who are competing soon in an international contest, as part of its Second Sunday series. The event is free.

Following the program will be the opening reception for **GRACE MEGNET’s** art exhibition.

December’s featured foyer artist will be Barbara Haviland.

TAM is located at 3501 Cultural Center Drive in Port Arthur.

For more information, call 409-983-4881, or visit www.texasartistsmuseum.net.

The **PORT ARTHUR “NOON” SERTOMA CLUB** and the **PORT ARTHUR PUBLIC LIBRARY** are announcing their first **HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD**.

Cultural clubs and organizations across the Triangle will decorate a tree or display in honor of their heritage. Organizations participating in this first exhibit include the Daughters of the American Revolution, African-American Cultural Society, Mexican Heritage Society, Italian Club, Gulf Coast Cajun Chapter of the Cajun French Music Association, Buu Mon Buddhist Temple and the Multicultural Diversity Association providing a Middle Eastern and Holland display.

The objective for this free educational program is to promote diversity and education throughout the community with an emphasis on school.

“It is a wonderful chance to explore the many cultures in our area in a positive and nurturing environment,” Join us in embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each of us,” Carolyn Thibodeaux, said.

The unveiling of the exhibit will be held Dec. 6,



“Waiting for the Mail,” by Sue Wright, was awarded Best in Show at the “Big Picture Photography Competition 2010” at the Ice House Museum in Silsbee.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Lucy Stiefel Gallery of the Port Arthur Public Library, located at 4615 9th Ave. in Port Arthur.

The exhibit will run through Jan. 21.

If you or your cultural club or organization is interested in participating in this event, contact Gina Desmarais at 409-656-9050 or Carolyn Thibodeaux at 409-543-0436.

The **W.H. STARK HOUSE** and the **STARK MUSEUM OF ART** will host simultaneous holiday events on Dec. 14 and Dec. 16, starting at 5 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

The W.H. Stark House will have its annual **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** celebrating the season with music and festive holiday décor, and the Stark Museum will present its **HOLIDAY EXHIBIT CELEBRATION** featuring gallery spotlights and music from two local groups.

Both of these events are free to the public, and children accompanied by an adult are welcome.

The Carriage House, directly behind The W.H. Stark House, will serve as the entrance to the open house, where holiday refreshments will be available to visitors. From there, visitors will be offered a chance to see the house decorated with seasonal greenery and berries during complimentary first-floor tours.

A Christmas tree adorned with one-of-a-kind handmade ornaments will grace the foyer, and the music room will be alive with holiday music.

Each night, Ellen Rienstra will play H.J. Lutcher Stark’s childhood violin and Ed Wilson will be on the original 1910 Steinway Grand Piano. They will

be accompanied by flutist Jennifer Howland as the ensemble plays holiday favorites throughout the evening.

Across the street from The W.H. Stark House, the Stark Museum of Art will host its “Holiday Exhibit Celebration.” A special exhibit, “The Book of Hours,” will be open, featuring four late medieval illuminated manuscripts with glorious hand-painted illustrations, including Christmas based themes. On Dec. 14, Judy Turpin will give a spotlight on Alfred Jacob Miller’s “The Pipe of Peace at the Rendezvous,” and the Lone Star Pipe Band will perform traditional Celtic music. On Dec. 16, Judy Taylor will present a talk on Books of Hours, and the Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School Band will play holiday music selections. Light refreshments will be served in the lobby.

The W.H. Stark House and Stark Museum of Art are participating in the Blue Santa program and will have donation boxes for those wishing to bring a new, unwrapped toy to be given to a child in need.

Located at 610 West Main Ave. in Orange, The W.H. Stark House is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For information, visit www.whstarkhouse.org or call 409-883-0871.

Located at 712 Green Avenue in Orange, the Stark Museum of Art is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free, and group tours are available by appointment.

For more information about the Stark Museum of Art, call 409-886-ARTS (2787) or visit www.starkmuseum.org.

Savor

This is the hand I call my favorite
This is the song I find sound
This is the world from the underground
These are the toys that I play with
These are my friends and their songs
I’ll remember them after they’re gone
That’s the clack and the clack of the railway
That’s the feeling of a kiss
Given to me today
This is my favorite shirt
These are my most comfortable pants
With lips parted we entered a dance
This is the hand I call my favorite
It’s been torn and busted
But it is a part of me
But it is not my fondest memory

Ryan Goslowsky

Sketches of Federal Hill and the Lips of a Barman’s Daughter

Sledding the white sunrise slope of the hill
I am white mercury.
My trajectory slings me,
gravity’s son, up and out, into
the abandoned Thanksgiving
Mess of Fort Avenue.

Here on Battery and Cross
her father tends a lonesome bar
(My father’s favorite bar).
Sir, I’ve been sent to collect him:
The barman wears a ball cap with
A fishhook on the brim.

Barreling down the north slope of the hill
Key Highway closing in,
I think of; death, and mortal sin;
the yellow-lighted midnight bridge;
her lips again; Cal Ripken’s
batting average...

Until a parking meter smells my suicide
and breaks my spell. I stand,
a shred less boy than man,
and grope my dizzy way along
toward the beacon of Domino Sugar,
and home.

Chad Belyeu

Eden

Brilliance arcs across the night, fading.
Veils of mist curl into the rising sun
while petals slowly unfold clean sweetness,
and fingers shape dust into features of faces.

Morning and evening, under cool leaves,
fruit for knowing good — and evil — beckons.
At the sharp tang, our eyes open
to life, cursed and holy, reddening the earth.

Tracie Middleton

Thoughtcrime

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Aria Fresca

The first cool air brings nostalgia.
A high school student is seated in a windowless classroom;
Looks forward to being outside in the evening
Shuffling through leaves before hitting the books.

Now he sits in the park near his
apartment in southeast Texas.
If he closes his eyes, he can still see evening sunlight.

Bel sole! He can almost imagine that he is back in Rome,
Seated on his terrazzo or in the park of the Villa Borghese.
La stessa luce ed ómbra. Even the breeze feels the same.

Last night, browsing the Internet,
He read that one of his teachers had died.
Fabio Giardini, Order of Preachers.
(He remembers *con affetto* that a Latin/Italian pun
translates “Dominicani”
as “Dogs of the Lord”.)
One of Father Giardini’s theological interests was
“La Nostalgia di Dio”.
The deepest human desire is for the Eternal One
who is our origin and destination.

The student looks around at the park in which he is sitting.
There are no hills, no umbrella pines.
Only a solitary oak standing between him
and the setting sun,
Throwing down lengthening shadows.

Kevin L. Badeaux

He may be Donald Sutherland’s love child, but reality’s flat against the wall.

I smelt the culprit states away
dropping bass lines
white knuckled
like yesterday’s last kiss.

The Sandman’s at your door
slip him some cookies and a clean needle,
he’ll crawl back in the night.

The chocolate chips taste like arsenic
like grandma
after papa
went into that deafening light.

I still have his balls
his walker
now mine.

We scuttle about to pass the time.
They’re yellow
and about ate through...
won’t be long ‘til they just fall off.

Ryan Forsythe

Audubon on the Great White Heron

Bachman’s cat would appear to be merely resting
if it weren’t for the bill speared through its heart
The heron is tall as a woman, twice as cruel,
and at least as beautiful.

I brought the bird all the way from Florida
as a gift for my friend,
a pillar of living ivory
to walk among his Magnolias.

But already it’s swallowed a dozen ducks,
bitten several children, and now
(the most dire offense) slain poor Francis.

It will be shot and stuffed within the week,
but beasts can’t be blamed
for their wickedness.

When it flew along the banks of the Keys
it snapped up fish with the grace of sharpened wind.
My deckhands would remove their hats
when a flock circled, dove,
and thinned out the flashing tide in an instant.
Even I once gasped at the display.

But a miracle on the march
is a crime in the garden.

Even though the animal will die
under trees that are strange to it,
I envy him.

Because my thin brother was hatched
possessing the virtues of a specter,
while I am left clinging to the savage wish for air
and white wings.

James Duncan

Memories

The wind pounding at my window
Reminds me of a childhood past
Watching my parents become shadows
As their hopes and dreams elapsed.
Too many rains days for a child to see.

The torrent winds always blew for me,
Blowing between despair and failing hope.
As I grew older, crouched beneath a tree,
I learned to live on little affection, alone.
Those long nights wandering astray.

Soon came my calm, sunny day.
When it became clear who I am,
And a stray flash of light came my way
With celestial power, revealing where I stand.
We must endure our storms behind trembling glass.

Nick Graham

GEEK from page 11

This is a comic that kids will love and adults will find magical in the same way that L. Frank Baum's "Oz" books are still magical. Plus there are robots. Robots people! Robots and dapper men, a recipe for success if I ever heard one.



Ashamed I tell you.

I THINK YOU KNOW BY JULIA NUNES — This EP will break your heart into a million pieces and then stitch it back together with strawberry licorice. I'm not sure I even understand what that last sentence means, but I do know that this record is amazing. Nunes has a strength and vulnerability in her voice that you just can't manufacture. Her song writing skills are astounding and the music builds just enough to make you notice how good the writing is. This little gem is an iTunes exclusive (but isn't everything these days?).



DEATH IS SILENT BY KNO — Two of my favorite genres of music are folk and hip hop and this record fuses them in a way I never thought possible. Using pieces of old folk songs to form the hooks of most of the tracks on this

FULL DARK, NO STARS — It's a new collection of short stories by Stephen King! I am ashamed of each and every one of you for thinking I have to write an entire paragraph to make you understand why this is a great present.



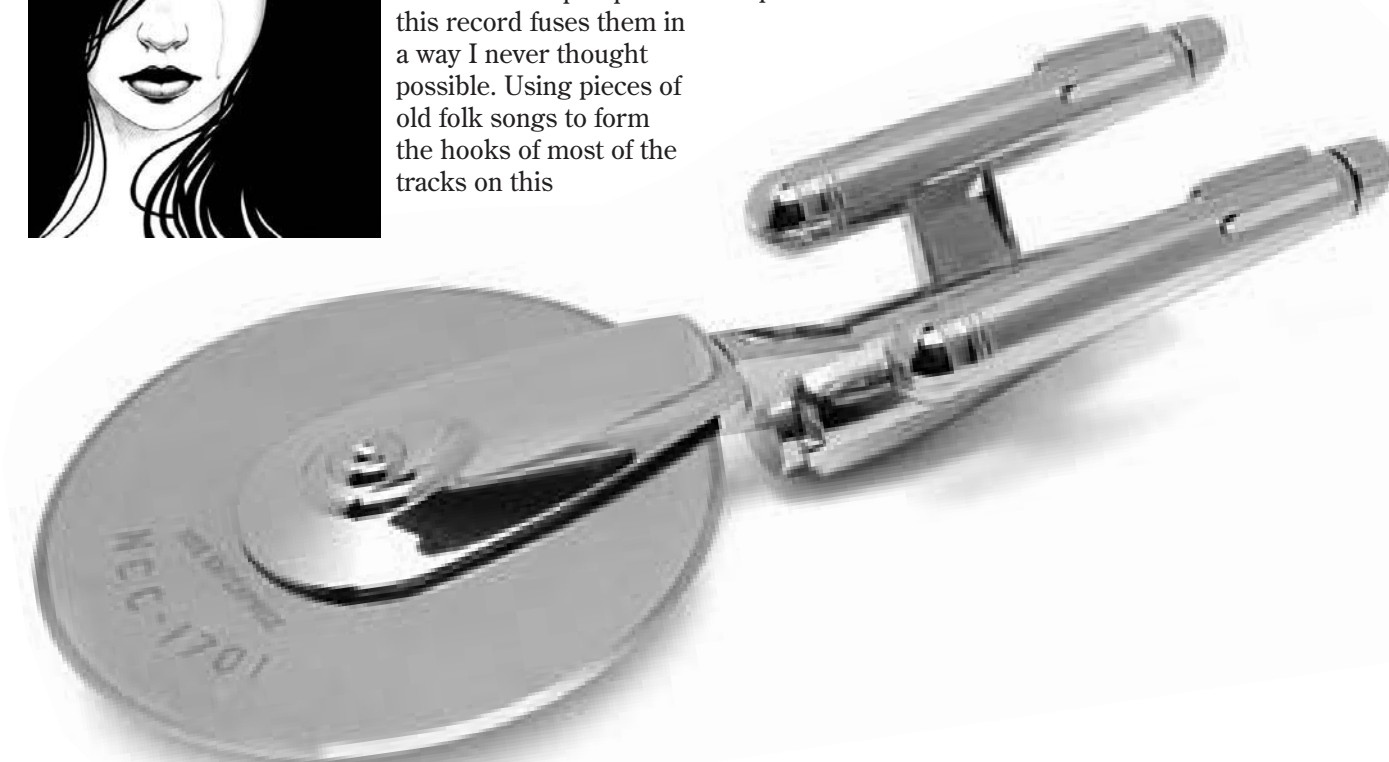
a werewolf? Did people do this in the '80s? Am I missing something?). Anyways, if you like Teen Wolf or you love Michael J. Fox (and who doesn't?) then get over to www.80stees.com and snag one of these before they're all gone.

U.S.S. ENTERPRISE PIZZA CUTTER — It slices, it dices, it's the geekiest kitchen utensil ever made. Impress your friend(s), mildly amuse your roommate/parent, aggravate your imaginary girlfriend, y'know, the one who lives in Niagara Falls that no one has ever met. You can be the envy of everyone on your favorite message board by visiting www.thinkgeek.com and ordering this seriously awesome piece of

equipment. If only there was a Lazy Susan in the shape of the Millennium Falcon.

And that brings us to the end of our time together. Stay warm out there friends and neighbors. Fix yourself a mug of apple cider, turn on "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and curl up next to someone you can tolerate. Mahalo!

*Editors note: Do people still say "dope?"



album, Kno brings his smart and sensitive style of rap to the table and the two are a match made in music heaven. Seriously this album is dope*.

THREE TEEN WOLF MOON SHIRTS — A perfect shirt to wear if you're ever in the mood to surf on top of a van (I never understood the van surfing in Teen Wolf. What does that have to do with being



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, Entergy, HEB, and the Vic Rogers Foundation through the Southeast Texas Arts Council

VIEW from page 3

class that may open many doors for you and your health. Inspired by this, I hope to start a Tai Chi class in the coming months.

A last word. I have been impressed and delighted that so many religious organizations are tuned into the potter, clay and pottery as an analogy to their faith and relation to God. It seems there are 13 references to the potter, clay and pottery in the Bible and people have recently locked on to that fact. Suddenly we are getting calls to provide workshops in clay and demonstrations of clay on the wheel to inspire and teach congregations. I have been to multiple churches: Baptist, Catholic, non-denominational and Methodist. I've worn robes, thrown pots in churches, demonstrated to teens, retirees and children. It's always a joy to find that religions have a need for our work and that we might inspire someone in that denomination to be a better participant in their beliefs and to demonstrate in a very human way how God struggles with his creativity as well.

BOOKS from page 12

are. I want a good balance of expensive, more rare books and paperbacks or books that are more accessible."

Besides selling books, Roberts said he also wanted to give artists another venue to present their work. The Book Bazaar hosts local artists that will switch out every three months.

"I wanted to bring some more culture to Beaumont, and also give local artists a place to sell their work. Beaumont has some museums, the Art League and the Art Studio, but it doesn't have a lot of businesses where people go to for other reasons than to buy art.

"I want quality work. If a new artist comes in and his work is really good - it's executed right and I think it could sell - I'd be happy to put it up. I have five artists up now, and I'll probably have that many at all times. I want it to be as beneficial as possible to the artist. Anyone is welcome to show me something. I'll take any kind of art on any media."

Two family paintings belong to Roberts, but all other art and furniture, including the large antique European bookshelves lining the walls, are available for purchase.

The Book Bazaar is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday by appointment.

For more information about the bookstore and gallery, call the store at 409-835-1038 or go to www.thebookbazaarllc.com.

MERZ from page 13

The physical space is small, yet the "Merzbau" has infinite scale, like Dr. Who's TARDIS that exists in relative time and space. After a while, one can wonder what is up and what is down. When one finally begins to get one's bearings, the lights change color and we are thrown into another dimension.

Schwitters nomadic war-time travels ended in England where he died in 1948. From 1940 on, his work is all English garbage. Tea bags are the order of the day. His final pieces contain glimpses of Kandinsky. "Untitled (Red Angle, Grey Feather)" is a perfect balance of abstract shapes.

Schwitters never seems to lose his playfulness and joy. In "Anemone," he incorporates a ration book. But this symbol of want and deprivation, in the artist's hands, signals the joy of the new post-war possibilities.

"En Morn" captures Schwitters sense of fun. Few of his pieces are so overtly message-driven. While most of his work incorporates typography, this piece has the words "This is what we are fighting for" emblazoned across it. What is we are fighting for? According to Schwitters, freedom and liberty must include chocolate peppermints and a pretty girl.

Kurt Schwitters is an influential artist who not only asked questions, but also gave us answers that profoundly expanded our perception of what can be beautiful.

Be careful what you abandon as trash. There may be a masterpiece waiting to be discovered.

The Menil Collection is located at 1515 Sul Ross in Houston.

For more information, visit www.menil.org.



WE WANT YOU FOR BAND NITE

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by local musicians at



**For upcoming gigs, visit
the studio's facebook page
or www.myspace.com/artstudio**

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All ages welcome • 21 and up BYOB and have your ID.



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INSIDE

- **BEAUX ARTS BALL**
- **THOUGHTCRIME: MUSINGS FROM AREA POETS**
- **GEEK'S GIFT GUIDE**
- **BEAUTIFUL MINDS**

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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**JOIN US
FOR ART OPENINGS ON
THE FIRST SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH**

**THIS MONTH:
HOLIDAY SHOP-O-RAMA
EXTRAVAGANZA**

**DECEMBER 4
SALE BEGINS AT NOON
GALLERY RECEPTION IS 7-10 P.M.**



**SOUTHEAST
TEXAS**



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

THE ART STUDIO INC. ISSUE DISTRIBUTION POINTS

DOWNTOWN

THE ART STUDIO, INC.	720 FRANKLIN
ART MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS	500 MAIN
BABE DIDRIKSON ZAHARIAS MUSEUM	1750 IH-10E
BEAUMONT CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU	801 MAIN
(IN CITY HALL)	
BEAUMONT ART LEAGUE (FAIRGROUNDS)	2675 GULF ST
THE CAFE	730 LIBERTY
NEW YORK PIZZA & PASTA	790 NECHES
SETAC	701 NORTH STREET, STE. 1
TATTOOMANIA	601 PARK
TEXAS ENERGY MUSEUM	600 MAIN

SOUTH END/LAMAR UNIVERSITY

BOBCAT	1535 E. CARDINAL DR.
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THE TATTERED SUITCASE	2590 CALDER

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BEAUMONT VISITORS BUREAU	IH-10
CHRISTIAN MYERS-RMT	6755 PHELAN BLVD 24E
COLORADO CANYON	6119 FOLSOM
FOREVER YOURS FLORIST	HWY 105
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LOGON CAFE	3805 CALDER
THE MASSAGE INSTITUTE	2855 EASTEX FRWY, SUITE 1
(@ DELAWARE)	
NORTH END CYCLE	HWY 105
PACESETTER	COLONNADE CENTER
QUIZNOS	3939 SUITE 9 DOWLEN
RED B4 BOOKS	4495 CALDER
REED'S LAUNDRY	6025A PHELAN @ PEYTON
STUDIO 77	6372 COLONNADE CENTER
TIP-TOP	7271 EASTEX FRWY
TRENDY'S	5905 PHELAN, STE. E
WEST END MEDICAL PLAZA	2010 DOWLEN
WILSON CHIROPRACTIC	7060 PHELAN BLVD.

PARKDALE

RAO'S BAKERY	4440 DOWLEN
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ORANGE

STARK MUSEUM OF ART	712 GREEN AVE.
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