

# PAINTING THE TOWN

## LESTER MARKS' COLLECTION CREATES A VIBRANT PALETTE FOR HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR, YEAR V

CATHERINE D. ANSPON COVERS THE PERFORMANCE ART. PHOTOGRAPHY MONICA KRESSMAN.

**CANVAS:** Houston Fine Art Fair Kickoff Party.

**WHITE CUBE:** The art-filled casa of Penelope and Lester Marks.

**COMPOSITION:** Joining the visually savvy hosts were HFAF host committee chairman **Deborah Colton** with husband **Bill** (he in from Dallas) and a bevy of nonprofit and collector types, heavy on the internationals. Front and center: DiverseWorks new directress **Xandra Eden**; **Ken Mazzu** with the Glassell School of Art and best gal **Anna Aniban**; **Anita Smith**; HFAF Paper Today curator **Mariana Valdes Debes** and husband **Bob Debes**; Fair honorees **Michelle Barnes** and **Clint Willour** (the gentleman of the house was also honored as Patron of the Year); **Christina Girard**, regaling us with tales of her Egyptian antiquities collection; **Paola and Arturo Creixell**; **Mady and Ken Kades**, fresh from chairing this spring's Alley Gala; Consul General of France **Sujiro Seam** and wife **Muyi-Jane Ren** (she innovatively curates exhibitions at their

official residence); newlyweds **Eloise Frischkorn Bauer** and **Luis Bauer**; politico/collector **Jason Fuller**; **Carolyn Farb**; ambassador **Miguel Ángel Fernández de Mazarambroz** with wife **María Eugenia Suárez-Almazor** chatting with artist **Loli Fernández-Andrade Kolber** who organized Fair events for the Latin community; **Anna and Thomas Au**; **Elise Glattier-Hollingsworth**; **Eduardo de la Garza** and mom **Pilar de la Garza**; **Beth Wolff**; **Duyen Huynh** and **Marc Nguyen**; and **Jennifer and Steve Dolman**. A Fare Extraordinaire created the cocktails and bites.

**PC MOMENT:** Host/mega collector Lester Marks movingly addressed the crowd, quoting the late Dominique de Menil: "Art lives by companionship." (A man who lives with Cornell, Kiefer, Bourgeois and Warhol ought to know.) *For behind the booths at year five of HFAF, read our reports on the arts channel of [papercitymag.com](http://papercitymag.com).*



Arturo Creixell

Paola Creixell

Deborah Colton

Bill Colton



Christina Girard

Host & honoree Lester Marks



Beth Wolff



Host Penelope Marks with Alana



Anita Smith



Honoree Clint Willour

Honoree Michelle Barnes



Shushana Castle

Jack Castle



Eloise Frischkorn Bauer

Carolyn Farb

Luis Bauer



Jennifer Dolman

Steve Dolman



Eduardo de la Garza

Pilar de la Garza



Ken Mades

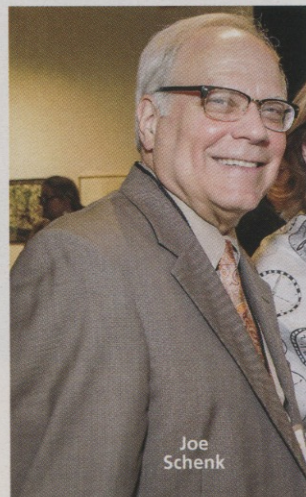
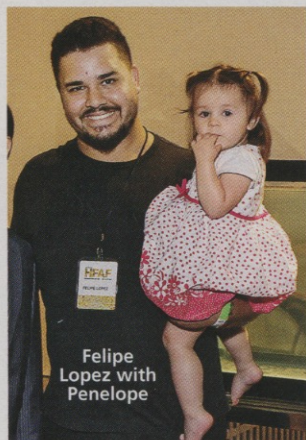
Mady Kades



Mariana Valdes Debes

Bob Debes





# FROM SUBLIME KLIMTS TO MARGARET KEANE'S WIDE-EYED NAIFS HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR V

CATHERINE D. ANSPON DOES THE RECAP. PHOTOGRAPHY KIM COFFMAN.

**T**his year's Fair was truly Houston-centric, starting with the awards presented to a worthy trio: Patron of the Year **Lester Marks**, Lifetime honoree **Clint Willour** and Illumination Education winner **Michelle Barnes**. Also anchoring the Fair in Houston's own (significant) art history was the Opening Night beneficiary: FotoFest, which presented an exhibition of global talents and prescient themes. Reinforcing the Houston motif was a glorious pavilion of Dorothy Hood canvases mounted by the Art Museum of South Texas, where the late Houston painter's show opens in September 2016. Across from the AMST Hoods, **Sandy Parkerson** brought a vintage Hood drawing to his booth of secondary-market goodies. Down that aisle, former *Houston Chronicle* critic **Patricia Johnson** saluted our most notable with a Hall of Fame section where late abstract painter **Joe Glasco** — famously the teacher of Julian Schnabel — stole the show.

The unofficial honor of most hilarious booth goes to crowd fave Art League Houston, whose quirky installation replicated a hunting camp where works by **Randy Bolton** mashed up against **Paul Middendorf** in his role of game master, holding court with sound artist **Lina Dib**. Nearby, **Mat Kubo** engaged onlookers in a performance; for \$20, you could type on a vintage '70s machine, then leave with an onionskin creation to commemorate a dialogue with Kubo over a typed page of text.

Another Houston nonprofit acquitting itself nicely was

internationally exhibited **Tad Lauritzen Wright's** faux folk works. It was impossible not to be won over by Wright's jubilant, witty creations.

The biggest surprise was discovering a cache of prints by **Gustav Klimt**, **Egon Schiele** and **Alphonse Mucha** at Galerie Fledermaus' stand, which was installed with an aesthetic that channeled turn-of-the-century Vienna. Also dealing with historical material, Muzeion from Dallas presented splendors from the kingdom of the Incas, including textiles and ceremonial garb that has survived the centuries.

In contrast to these 1900 and pre-Columbian offerings, **Sandy Skoglund's** strange '70s-era photographs stood out at **Yvonamor Palix Fine Art**; images from pre-Photoshop days were exercises in pattern and color employing such domestic tropes as frozen peas or luncheon meat and a laminated kitchen counter.

Aisles over, the wide-eyed naïfs of **Margaret Keane** — the artist was played on the silver screen recently by Amy Adams in Tim Burton's film *Big Eyes* — were a jaw-dropping example of what was once kitsch achieving apotheosis into a potent symbol, which stood for an era.

Natch, Fair chairman **Deborah Colton's** booth boasted an international array stocked with standouts from Oleg Dou's futuristic photos of alien-like beings to **Susan Plum's** woven glass pendulum. Also memorable was the chilling video by Arab-world talent **Mahmoud**







Wayne Gilbert  
Christine Girard

creatives were priced at \$100 each — the best buy of the day. At the Katy Contemporary Arts Museum area, which spilled out of its booth, a giant hook in a tank of hapless goldfish conjured the immigrant experience, a creation by emerging Houston talent **Felipe Lopez**, addressing his Cuban heritage.

At Kips Gallery, Korean-born, Houston-based **Cheong Ok-Matthews** took an ordinary subject — the landscape — and made it memorable with a wall of reductive slices of meadow and sky. Also mining the language of abstraction, West Coast painter **Chris Trueman**, shown by Patrajdas Contemporary, evoked Rosenquist with a sexy nocturnal palette and slices of intersecting bands of pigment. Gallerist **Franny Koelsch** injected a note of the outsider with a solo for

**Osada**, in which the subject changed religions with dizzying speed by swapping outfits. Breaking business news almost trumped the artworks. While HFAF founder **Rick Friedman** will remain on as consultant, the Fair has been acquired by Atlanta trade show entity **Urban Expositions**; UE CEO **Doug Miller** was strolling the Fair on Opening Night with Friedman. (Urban Expo itself has been acquired, as of September 1, by UK-based Clarion Events, a producer of 200 shows spanning five continents, established in 1947.) What this means for Houston Fine Art Fair going forward continues to be a hot topic. Expect an infusion of capital and the ability to attract additional dealers of the ilk of Gladwell & Patterson (who toted a 1927 Picasso canvas to this year's Fair), therefore encompassing a broader expanse of art history. *For more Fair coverage, visit [papercitymag.com](http://papercitymag.com).*



Paola Creixell  
Arturo Creixell



Norman Ewart  
Jereann Chaney



Jennifer Batchelor  
Meredith Stewart  
Aaron Abel  
Kelsey Bielby  
Ashley Ramos



Catherine D. Ansporn chats with honoree Michelle Barnes.



Vivek Subbiah  
Ishwaria Subbiah



William Smith  
Anita Smith  
Gerald Smith



Eloise Frischkorn Bauer  
Luis Bauer  
Carolyn Farb



Laura Mudd



Steven Evans



Lina Dib



Paul Middendorf



Claire Cusack  
Kristen Cliburn  
Star Massing  
Jack Massing



Lisa Slappay



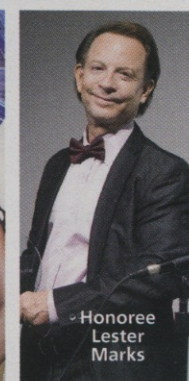
Frazier King  
Wendy Watriss  
Fred Baldwin



Corbett Parker



Michael Polk  
Rabea Ballin  
Danielle Wilson  
Joi Maria Probus



Honoree Lester Marks



# NAVIGATING

## HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR, YEAR FIVE

**Y**OUR GUIDE TO THE ART ACTION: THE BOOTHS • THE BUZZ • FOTOFEST AS OPENING NIGHT BENEFICIARY • DOROTHY HOOD PAVILION • ART LEAGUE LOFT • THE WORTHY HONOREES • PAPER SPLENDORS • HOUSTON'S HALL OF FAME. **CALENDAR THESE DATES: SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, AT NRG CENTER; TICKETS, GALLERY ROSTER AND DETAILS: HOUSTONFINEARTFAIR.COM.** CATHERINE D. ANSPON REPORTS.

### WHY WE'RE GOING

Year five of the **Houston Fine Art Fair** inaugurates the fall scene when it opens two days after Labor Day. The Fair once again interweaves aspects of community (bowing to our city's visual history, leaders and nonprofits) while underscoring Houston's internationalism and the primacy of photography here, as well as setting up an intriguing dialogue with out-of-town galleries and their stables. Also watch for a unique installation presenting three Latin American artists who probe the medium of the moment: paper.

### FOTOFEST IN FOCUS

Great excitement swirls around the Fair's opening-night beneficiary. **Wednesday, September 9**, the action unveils at NRG Center, with proceeds from **Black Card (first access, 6 to 7:30 pm)** and **VIP (7:30 to 9:30 pm admission)** ticket sales going to **FotoFest**, the Houston-founded and headquartered nonprofit that presents programs around the world; it's also one of the most significant forces in global historic and contemporary photography *anywhere*. Investigate a presentation curated especially for the Houston Fine Art Fair in the FotoFest booth, selected by FotoFest trio **Wendy Watriss, Steven Evans** and **Jennifer Ward** that will showcase some of the seminal voices in contemporary photography today.

world (Portela's blooms, Lagos' tree trunks) or circle back upon the vaunted traditions of drawing and collage (seamlessly enfolded in Gisholt's work).

### WHO MADE THE HALL OF FAME

For the second year in a row, former *Houston Chronicle* art critic **Patricia Johnson** weighs in on the definitive artists who shaped Houston's scene. Johnson's Hall of Fame section this year recognizes painters **David Aylsworth, Mark Flood** (to be anointed in a CAMH solo next spring too), **Joseph Glasco** (mentor to Julian Schnabel), **Aaron Parazette, Gael Stack, Richard Stout** and **Dick Wray**. Sculptors highlighted include: **Havel/Ruck Projects (Dan Havel and Dean Ruck), Bill Steffy, Ed Wilson** (currently working on an epic installation for the revamped convention center) and **Troy Woods**. A sizable booth showcases signature works by the dozen talents recognized by Johnson.

### HOUSTON DUET

The pair of dealers representing Houston are **Deborah Colton Gallery** and **Koelsch Gallery**. Colton, who plays a lead role as committee chair, stocks her booth with Russians and Middle Eastern heavy-hitters including the startling photography of **Oleg Dou** and video master **Mahmoud Obaidi** alongside internationally exhibited, locally based artists, **Susan Plum** and **Sharon Kopriva**. (The under-known Plum, one of the most important artists residing in Houston, also solos at Colton Gallery during the Fair; her opening Saturday, September 12, will serve as a Fair after-party too. Plum's work defies categorization but



Pablo Picasso's *Guitare Accrochée au Mur*, 1927, at Gladwell & Patterson

employs ritual and multiple media to mine the cosmos.) Koelsch organizes a monographic presentation for Memphis-based **Tad Lauritzen Wright**, fresh off the artist's recent solo in Paris. Wright's work evokes outsider art; his vibrant paintings, sculpture and text-based drawings buzz with energy.

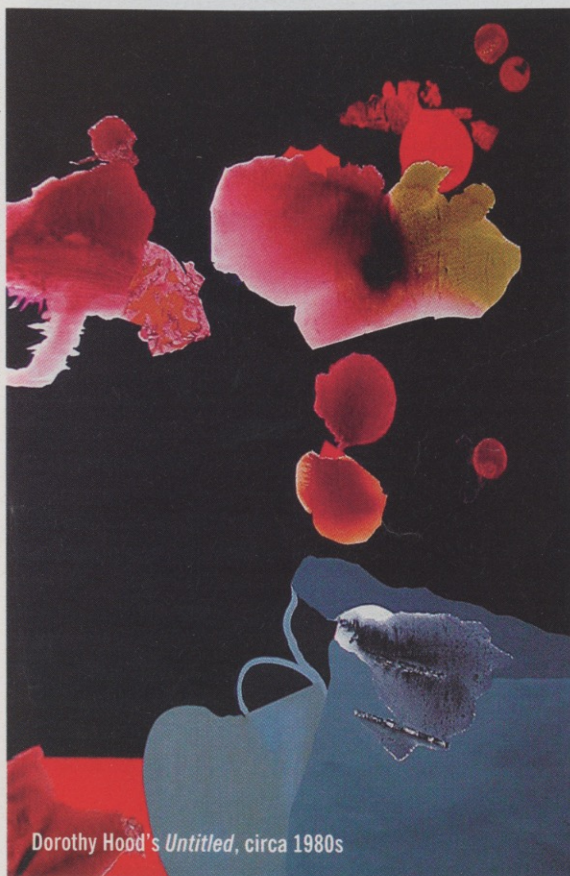
### OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS

The final exhibitor list is still being finalized at press time, but these national and international exhibitors have been confirmed: from across the pond, London gallerist **Gladwell & Patterson**, bringing the Fair's coup d'état, **Picasso's *Guitare Accrochée au Mur***, a riveting cubistic canvas from 1927; Tokyo dealer **Gallery Kitai**, mounting dramatic showings of Sumi ink on paper works by **Reiko**

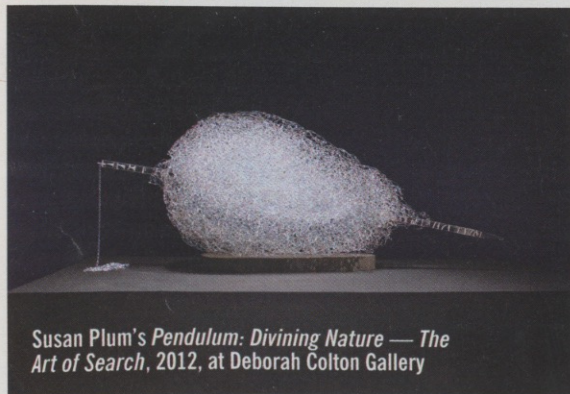


Once again, Houston Fine Art Fair commissions Houston-based independent curator **Mariana Valdes Debes** to present a look to Latin America. (Valdes Debes' installation in 2014 by Nacho Rodriguez Bach is still remembered for its haunting mix of sight and sound.) For this iteration, titled "Paper Today," the curator's concept is the medium of paper. Valdes Debes has tapped three Latin American artists — **Alfredo Gisholt** (Mexico), **Maribel Portela** (Mexico) and **Miler Lagos** (Colombia) — whose exploration in this smart, fresh media often bow to the natural

COLLECTION ART MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS, CORPUS CHRISTI

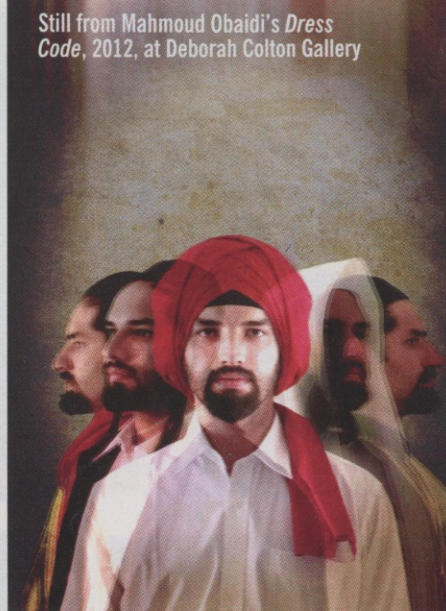


Dorothy Hood's *Untitled*, circa 1980s



Susan Plum's *Pendulum: Divining Nature — The Art of Search*, 2012, at Deborah Colton Gallery

Still from Mahmoud Obaidi's *Dress Code*, 2012, at Deborah Colton Gallery



Dorothy Hood from her Houston chapter, circa 1980s



Anna Charlotte Schmid's *Daniel I*, Budapest, 2012, at FotoFest



Tad Lauritzen Wright's *Pet Rocks*, 2015, at Koelsch Gallery

the patrician **Spalding Nix**; **Art Nouveau Gallery** (with its handsomely honed reductive take on Latin American geometric abstraction) and **Adamar Gallery** (showing **Sultan to Rauschenberg**), both of Miami; and **Callan Contemporary**, a Julia Street player based in New Orleans, known for its pristine installations of abstract to figurative painting and sculpture, the heroic **John Henry** to the Surreal **Sibylle Peretti**.

## HOMETOWN HEROES

Continuing its tradition of honoring Houston's art citizenry who have shaped our community, HFAF salutes a game-changing trinity for their decades of making a difference: **Michelle Barnes** (Illumination Award in Arts Education), **Lester Marks** (Patron of the Year) and **Clint Willour** (Lifetime Achievement Honoree). Q&As with each recipient accompany the bestowing of the awards: **Barnes, Thursday September 10, 4 to 5 pm**; **Willour, Saturday, September 12, noon to 1 pm**; and **Marks, Saturday, September 12, 1:30 to 2:30 pm**. (All presentations in the HFAF Theater.)

## DOROTHY HOOD'S IN THE HOUSE

One of the most exciting accompanying components of this year's HFAF is its pavilion for the late, great Houston artist **Dorothy Hood**. Curated and conceived by the **Art Museum of South Texas** in Corpus Christi — the repository of the internationally exhibited painter's estate and archive — this ode to Dorothy also previews the museum's upcoming traveling retrospective, "The Color of Being," curated by the brilliant Houston art historian **Susie Kalil**, set to open in Corpus Christi in September 2016. Hear about the Hood project, meet AMST museum director **Joe Schenk** and see the 1980s film (produced by **Carolyn Farb**, which focuses upon Texas' greatest 20th-century painter) **Saturday, September 12, 3 to 5 pm**, in the Fair Theater (and learn how you can contribute).

## ART LEAGUE'S LOFTY PRESENTATION

Another must-see is **Art League Houston's** booth, entitled **The Loft**, where conceptually oriented Texas talents present immersive interactive installations that double as impromptu salons. ALH has selected Gallery Homeland's protagonist **Paul Middendorf**, hometown-based **Mat Kubo** and **Randy Bolton**, in from Fayetteville, for this provocative showing. Head to Middendorf's deer-stand-inspired *The Power Tower* for a chat, type a missive to Kubo on a vintage '70s machine or check out Bolton's "Today + Tomorrow," which forges a new language marrying narrative and sculptural print-making.

For additional HFAF coverage, follow our art blog at [papercitymag.com](http://papercitymag.com).