

# ARTNOTES

Heyd Fontenot's La Pieta (Darren and Beatrice), 2010, at Inman Gallery

NOT LASCIVIOUS: The talk of the town swirls around Austin artist Hevd Fontenot's "It's a Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude World" at Inman Gallery. Heyd's delicate, compelling portrait drawings are rendered in his own inimitable style, with oversized heads that dwarf delicate, smaller bodies and make you forget the subject is sans clothes. Known for painting his pals, this time around he takes on the Houston art world, capturing likenesses from artist Katrina Moorhead to his dealers Kerry Inman and Patrick Reynolds. You've got to see this show (through April 2). TEXAS TIME: The hotly collected Angelbert Metover solos at Colton & Farb Gallery, fresh from a well-received exhibition during Art Basel Miami Beach fair week in an independent project space adjoining the Margulies Collection. Word's out Metoyer may reprise some of his recent work from this "Positivism Project" (March) 12 - April 30) ... Koelsch Gallery curates a delightful convergence of Texas talents celebrating 175 years since the battle of San Jacinto. The show packs surprises, as gallerist Franny Koelsch rounds up artists from Marfa, Houston, Dallas and points in between, including Camp Bosworth's memorable gun as mini bar and nuanced pencil drawings by Claire Cusack (March 3 - April 23). A FUTURE TOP COLLECTOR: The eagle-eved art prince, aka Lester Marks, and his physician wife Penelope welcomed new arrival Alana Valentina in early February. Marks is already jumpstarting his daughter's collection, which includes a Marlene Dumas watercolor ode to Andy Warhol and a romantic Joseph Cornell sand-tray sculpture. THE 411 ON 4411: One of Houston's signature gallery destinations, 4411 Montrose, is being saved. Patron and collector Bruce Eames

just acquired the Peter Zweig-designed building and plans to preserve it as an art nexus. Eames, whose day job is as a trading tycoon, told us he purchased 4411 not as a real estate deal, but because of a personal passion for the art community. He plans to keep it as a showcase for galleries, artists' collaborations and innovative visual projects, and is already at work tweaking the contemporary structure, including enhancing landscaping and parking. Eames has tapped Fresh Arts board member Samira Salman as consultant, and the pair recently brought in rising designer David Peck for a fashion project at 4411. Galleries Barbara Davis, Anya Tish, Wade Wilson and Peel stay on, ART CARS AND CANVASES, ANNIVERSARY-RAMA: Kudos to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art for its approaching 30th anniversary. Sign up now for your VIPit tickets to spring's rollicking 24th anniversary Art Car Parade, with the festive parade-side viewing party co-chaired by stalwart OS supporter Don Mafrige Jr. and yours truly. This year, the date deviates from tradition, moving to Sunday, May 22, to welcome thousands of internationals here for the American Association of Museums annual meeting. Devise your costume now for the raucous Art Car Ball on Friday, May 20, at the folk art monument itself. (713.926.6368; orangeshow.org) ... The Rothko Chapel rings in four decades with a galactic anniversary gala chaired by Lynn Wyatt, which honors humanitarian Bianca Jagger on Wednesday, May 18, at the Houston Country Club (tickets, sean@rothkochapel. org). MORE DATES: The Third Biennial Rice/ Menil Lecture Series stars Kara Walker of the striking silhouettes, discoursing about her art on Monday, March 14, at The Menil Collection Fover (free; menil.org) ... Way out West, Marfa Ballroom's innovative new program, "The Reading," features free readings by important rising screenwriters on Saturday, March 26 — this spring honoring Maine native, currently Austinbased Andrew Lanham (ballroommarfa. org). For more Art Notes, visit papercity mag.com. Catherine D. Anspon



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Sharon Kopriva's Hallowed Hall, 2011, at Colton & Farb Gallery

**ENLIGHTENING STOPS:** You can't go wrong at The Menil Collection, home to a pair of exhibitions that are moving and poignant in different ways - and very much in keeping with the sensitivity to art history and human rights championed by the de Menils. "Upside Down: Arctic Realities," is curated by visual anthropologist Edmund Carpenter, whose ongoing "Wunderkammer" exhibit at the museum also is heavy on the power; artist Doug Wheeler devised the inspiring installation with its labyrinthine pathway, display tables and wall niches for treasures of Arctic culture spanning millennia. This is one of the most exquisite exhibitions the Menil has ever mounted (though July 17) ... Also Menil way, take in the truths of "The Whole World Was Watching: Civil Rights-Era Photographs from Edmund Carpenter and Adelaide de Menil," co-curated by the Menil's Michelle White and Danielle Burns of the Gregory School, where it is also on view (through September 25 at the Menil; through August 20 at Gregory). THE **HOMETOWN TEAM:** We're making tracks to Darke Gallery, where Linda Darke continues her commitment to Houston talents via a solo for Wendy Wagner. This mid-career notable plays with a panoply of media — sculpture, installation, animation, craft and painting — in a whimsical exhibition that could be on the Cartoon Network (May 13 - June 10) ... At Colton & Farb Gallery, the first artist that this scribe ever interviewed, Sharon Kopriva,

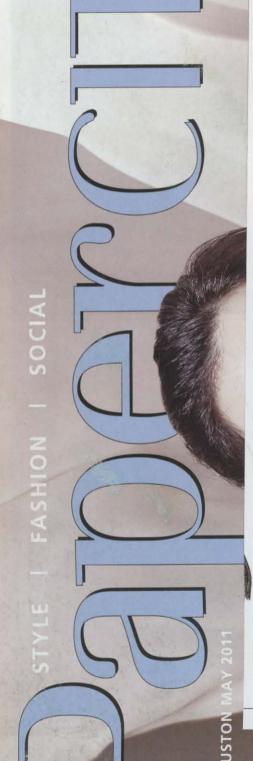
adds ghostly canines and a few phantoms

to her repertoire, paired with a homecoming for **Angelbert Metoyer**, who rolls out his latest explorations in memory, time and the universe, told through films and glassbased works (both May 14 – June 25) ...

THE NEXT CHAPTER: At McClain Gallery, Aaron Parazette leaves surfing behind with "Cloud Break," an investigation of the push-and-pull between control, surface and geometry in contemporary abstraction (May 5 - June 11). HEIGHTS-ARAMA: Don't forget that edgy 11th Street Heights enclave, where cross-continental Indian and American painter Rahul Mitra comments on dual cultures at G Gallery (May 7 - 29) and Ann Harithas' captivating collages triumph at Naü-haus (May 7 - 28). BACK TO LAWNDALE: The buzz is thundering about Lawndale Art Center, which has triumphantly returned to a prime spot as a trend-spotter. Three of its most exhilarating artists in residence are highlighted this month: conceptualist Anthony Shumate, painter Daniel McFarlane and provocateurs Hillerbrand+ Magsamen (through June 4). DID YOU SAY TITIAN?: Next month we'll bring you an update about the masterful Titian/National Galleries of Scotland blockbuster at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, so stay tuned for a report on two of the greatest paintings of the Italian Renaissance (May 22 - August 14). Catherine D. Anspon



Wendy Wager's Piccadilly Circus, 2011, at Darke Gallery



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## **Editorial: Features**

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## **Sharon Kopriva**

at Colton & Farb Gallery, Houston, Texas Recommendation by Troy Schulze

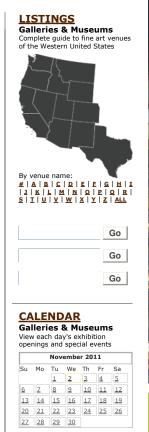


Sharon Kopriva, "Down of a Daydream," 2010-11, oil, mixed media on photo canvas, 70 x 48 x 13".

In her new series of mixed-media paintings, "Cathedrals, Phantoms and Naked Dogs," **Sharon Kopriva** continues her exploration of Catholic imagery and themes, but this time in a lighter and more hopeful tone — there isn't a "living corpse" sculpture of a bishop, pope or saint to be seen. Kopriva turns to architecture here, particularly Gothic cathedrals, and she augments their grand facades and vaulted interiors with swirling spirits, encroaching nature and animals. The artist's own Peruvian Hairless dogs are the show's major characters, depicted as ghostly guardians of the cathedral. Aside from the "MileStone" series, small iconic works chronicling dramatic world events like 9/11, Hiroshima and Tiananmen Square, each of Kopriva's large canvases have been prepped with an inkjet print of a Gothic structure or a stained-glass window, to which Kopriva applies her imagery. It's used to startling effect in works like "Sanctum" and "Hallowed Hall," in which trees become the structural elements of the churches, growing into the walls and framing the tall windows that seem to actually glow. They are the most impressive pieces by Kopriva to date.

Also on display is new mixed-media work by **Angelbert Metoyer**, titled "Levels, Forms and Dimensions" and subtitled "Research in Progress." Metoyer's compositions are always pleasing, even though his repetition of elements and motifs is more oblique and abstract than Kopriva's. The imagery tends toward the cosmic, sometimes containing a pop element, such as a repeated horse. It feels like a clinical exercise in symbolic meaning — engaged in actual research. If Kopriva's dogs are the souls of the show, Metoyer's horses in double-profile are the heads. It's a worthwhile study of symbol, ritual and two artist's personal religions.

Colton & Farb Gallery



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