



Dick Wray, *Untitled*, 2003, Mixed Media on Canvas 48 x 36 inches. Courtesy of Deborah Colton Gallery

DICK WRAY

DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY

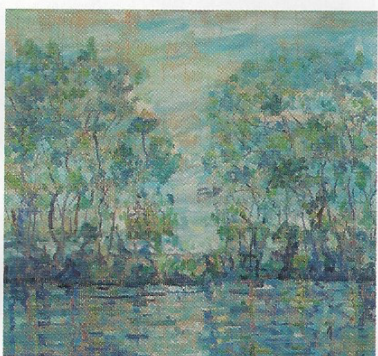
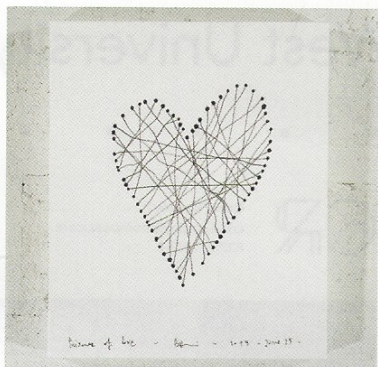
Deborah Colton Gallery presents Dick Wray: A Revelation. This vibrant and bold exhibition of paintings and mixed media works encompasses the entire gallery and is on view from September 7th to November 2nd.

A native Houstonian born in 1933, Dick Wray, was an artist of incomparable talent and personality who played a critical role in the development of Houston's contemporary art scene since the late 1950s. Often categorized as an Abstract Expressionist, Wray is best known for his explosive and dynamic paintings that have received numerous accolades from Houston's critical community as well as notable arts figures across the United States throughout his career.

Wray attended the University of Houston's School of Architecture, and the Kunstakademie Dusseldorf Arts Academy in Germany. Returning to Houston in 1959, he began seriously working as an artist and over the next fifty years, he participated in many important exhibitions nationally and internationally, while locally Wray had his first solo exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in 1975, was included in the *Fresh Paint: The Houston School* at the MFAH in 1985. Wray was an instructor at the Glassell School of Art from 1968 until 1982. Wray was awarded the Ford Foundation Award in 1962, received a prestigious Artist's Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1978 and was named Texas Artist of the Year by the Art League of Houston in 2000. His work is in major collections, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

SUPER SIX FOR SEPTEMBER

TOP SHOWS LAUNCHING THIS SEASON RANGE FROM A BRANDING-IRON-TOTING SPLENDORA NATIVE WHOSE ART SIGNAGE IS OH-SO DADAIST TO ITALIAN PERFORMANCE ART THAT RISES TO THE LEVEL OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE.



First up, Venice- and New York-based **Andrea Bianconi** returns to Houston for a performance and exhibition of his intuitive drawings at **Barbara Davis Gallery** (opening Friday, September 6, 6 to 8:30 pm; performance at 7:30 pm; through October 19). Bianconi's arrival in town follows his recent acclaimed performance at the San Vittore prison in Milan, where he collaborated with female inmates. The artist has also been tapped as brand ambassador for Italian luxury fashion house **Kiton**, for whom he created a collection of hand-drawn t-shirts, each one an original. (Kiton in River Oaks District will host a private party to toast Bianconi, which benefits the **MFAH**).

Over on Colquitt, two extravaganzas underscore that more is more. At **Heidi Vaughan Fine Art**, **Alton DuLaney** continues with his ART brand, as well as a performative painting crafted while brandishing an actual branding iron.

(The busy artist is also a candidate for mayor of Splendora, as well as the new art czar for Houston Airport System.) One of the showstoppers of DuLaney's "ART Provocateur" exhibition is a memorial stone finely etched with the three-letter word ART (opening Saturday, September 7, 5 to 8 pm; through October 12; artist talk Saturday, October 5, 1 pm).

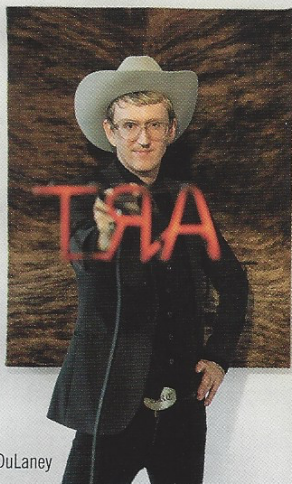
The wondrous menagerie of **Hunt Slonem** and his passion for preservation and historic places are in the limelight at **Laura Rathe Fine Art**. "Wonderland" features Louisiana landscapes and Slonem's three Bs: birds, bunnies, and butterfly canvases, as well as new rabbit sculptures (opening Friday, September 6, 5 to 8 pm; artist talk 6:45 pm; through October 14).

The late Mr. Houston Painting, AKA **Dick Wray**, gets a well-deserved posthumous

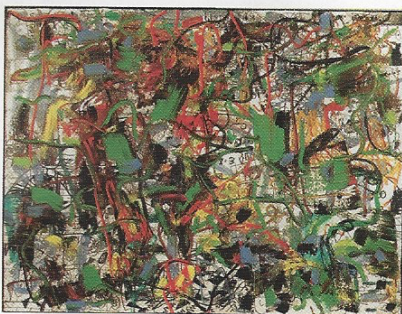
exhibition, "A Revelation," at **Deborah Colton Gallery** — part of DCC's ongoing Houston Foundations series of historic shows (opening Saturday, September 7, 6 to 8 pm; through November 2). Nearly a decade has lapsed since Wray's passing in 2011, but Mr. Crow (the artist's stand-in within his canvases), looks very good, indeed.

At **Nancy Littlejohn Fine Art**, L.A. painter **Kysa Johnson** makes her debut with gestural abstractions of a generous scale, informed by a nod to quantum physics and surreal, calligraphic brushstrokes (opening Saturday, September 7, 6 to 8 pm; through October 12).

Gonzo247, the talent who began Houston's street art movement — and who showcased Shepard Fairey at his edgy Aerosol Warfare Gallery — is onto a new endeavor. Why graffiti a wall when you can have a plane as your canvas! At the **1940 Air Terminal Museum** (1940airterminal.org), adjoining Hobby Airport, Gonzo247 has created a magnum opus upon a 1969 Hawker Siddeley jet; a project dreamed up in collaboration with museum director **Amy Rogers**. Visit Gonzo's aerosol-embellished jet on permanent display on the tarmac in front of the time-capsule terminal. *Catherine D. Anspon*



Alton DuLaney



Artwork clockwise from above: Andrea Bianconi's *Prisoner of Love*, 2019, at Barbara Davis Gallery; Dick Wray's *Untitled*, 2003, at Deborah Colton Gallery; Hunt Slonem's *Bayou Teche* (detail), 2019, at Laura Rathe Fine Art.

