

# ARTNOTES

**Maximum Max at Menil:** Wrap up '08 with a visit to **The Menil Collection** for "Max Ernst in the Garden of Nymph Ancolie" (through February 15), co-curated by Menil director **Josef Helfenstein**. Houston audiences will be the first to view the restored 1934 mural *Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie*, which once graced a Swiss nightclub, along with seminal Ernst works from that era.

**Hard-Hitting Iraq, Women Arise, Vatican on Ice:**

Credit **Jim Harithas** for addressing the world's hot zones. In "Iraqi Artists in Exile," **Station Museum of Contemporary Art** presents 15 talents whose work comments on the current conflict (through February 1) ... At **DiverseWorks**, former Lawndale director **Mary Ross Taylor**



Betty Ward's *Girl Holding a Cigarette with Her Toes*, 2005 – 2006, at Koelsch Gallery

curates "Thrive," highlighting artists such as **Toby Topek** and **Joanne Brigham**, who have long upheld the banner of feminism, along with rising talents such as painter **Kelli Vance** (through December 20) ... "Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes" comes to the **National Museum of Funeral History** on long-term display, including an authentic Popemobile (nmfh.org).

**Gallery a Go-Go:** See 20th-century great **George Segal** (1924 – 2000) at **McClain Gallery** (through January 3), including bronze and plaster figures, as well as drawings, spanning two decades. (Next month, a major Segal show comes to the **Nasher Sculpture Center** in Dallas) ... The erotic, humorous embroideries of San Antonio artist **Betty Ward** at **Koelsch Gallery** are occasionally 'R' rated (December 6 – January 3) ... **Deborah Colton Gallery** (new digs, 2445 North Boulevard) pairs Texan-French Alliance for the Arts prize winner **Daniel-Kayne Edwards** (see page 24) with Guam-based **Mark Dell'Isola**, whose monumental abstracts painted on remote Pacific islands channel the cosmos — *Starry Night* for the 21st century (through January 3) ... Speaking of faraway lands, **Booker-Lowe Gallery** mounts linocuts and etchings by indigenous Australian artists in "True North" (through January 23).

**Good Gifting:** The holiday shop-a-thon at **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston** on Thursday, December 4, includes **Wendy Wagner's** endearing soft sculptures, aka Qwerkys ... Opening Saturday, December 6, are **Darke Gallery's** Holiday Boutique and **Goldsberry Gallery's** Jewelry and Metal Art Invitational (through January 9). And don't miss **Houston Studio Glass'** wildly popular Holiday Open House on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7.

**Kudos and Congrats:** Pioneering lensman and FotoFest chairman **Fred Baldwin's** work documenting the Civil Rights movement is the subject of "Freedom's March," a major retrospective at Savannah, Georgia's **Telfair Museum** (through January 11). The companion volume documents a time and a place in America that remains extremely relevant today (don't miss the images of Dr. King) ... Texas man of granite **Jesus Moroles** has received the highest art honor: a National Medal of Arts. Rockport-based Moroles has sculpted granite monoliths from Houston to Beijing, and joins such greats as Agnes Martin and Louise Nevelson in receiving this accolade ... Internationally known, Houston Fifth Ward-based **Bert Long Jr.'s** epic "Art/Life" canvas now resides at the **Houston Public Library Looscan Neighborhood Library** in River Oaks, funded by the City of Houston's percent-for-art program, managed by Houston Arts Alliance ... Light and sound installationists **Jeff Shore** and **Jon Fisher** (repped by **McClain Gallery**) have taken over the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art** in Kansas City, Missouri (through January 11) ... Three hometown heroines are participating in **Sculpture for New Orleans**, a project that places public sculpture throughout the Crescent City for a two-year period: **Sharon Kopriva's** haunting *Resurrection*, **Tara Conley's** gargantuan bronze bunny and **Michelle O'Michael's** 18' steel spiral ... **Wade Wilson**—represented painter **Joseph Marioni** opens the **McNay Museum** in San Antonio's new Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibition, designed by French architect **Jean-Paul Viguier**. Marioni, whose luminescent monochromes ally him with the Concrete movement, is the first living American artist to solo in the museum's new wing (through January 18) ... Grande dame **Jane Blaffer Owen** received a prestigious **National Trust for Historic Preservation** honor, the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award, for revitalizing New Harmony, Indiana.

**Music of the Spheres:** **Wade Wilson Art's** Impulse Art Series sets piano recitals against the translucent paintings of Brit-born **Lucinda Cobley** Monday through Friday, December 8 through 12 (impulseartistsseries.org) ... Savor **Ars Lyrica's** doubleheader: **Handel's Messiah** at University of Houston's Moores School of Music on Sunday, December 7, followed by the New Year's Eve *Bachanalia* at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts (arslyricahouston.org). *Catherine D. Ansporn*



Max Ernst's *Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie*, 1934, at The Menil Collection



# TOP TEN

## 1 ALLEY THEATRE'S 'THE SANTALAND DIARIES'

Based on NPR humorist David Sedaris' own riotous run-ins while working as "Crumpet the Elf" in Macy's Santaland display, this cheeky comedy delivers just the right amount of seasonal sarcasm. **Dec. 2-28**, consult website for schedule. *Tickets \$30. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave., 713.220.5700, alleytheatre.org*

## 2 THE 'ART BOX' AT BERING AND JAMES

Last year, more than 200 local artists nabbed unfinished wooden boxes from the gallery, polished up the planks and then sold off the fine-art final products. Talk about a transformation! Look for beautified boxes from more than 300 local artists this time around. **Dec. 5-31. Bering & James, 805 Rhode Pl., 713.524.0101, beringandjames.com**

## 3 MIRROR BALL

The shimmer of disco and the '70s invades this seasonal soiree—an annual “anti-gala” that celebrates the arts and thrills with wacky costumes and a top-notch art auction. **Dec. 5, 7PM. Tickets \$125. David Adickes' studio, 2500 Summer St., 713.850.0939, glasstire.com and fresharts.org**

## 4 HOUSTON BALLET'S 'JUBILEE OF DANCE'

For one night only you can sneak a peek at works-in-progress and snippets from some of the Ballet's most beloved productions, like Stanton Welch's *Swan Lake* and *Divergence*. **Dec. 5, 7:30PM. Tickets \$55. Wortham Theater Center, Brown Theater, 501 Texas Ave., 713.227.2787, houstonballet.org**

## 5 KERMIT OLIVER AT HOOKS-EPSTEIN

For more than a quarter century, this longtime Texas artist created designs for French fashion house Hermès' signature scarves. Oliver's classically beautiful paintings and drawings stem from his rural Texas childhood and his study of religion and mythology. **Dec. 6-Jan. 10. Hooks-Epstein Galleries, 2631 Colquitt St., 713.522.0718, hooksepsteingalleries.com**

## 6 DACAMERA'S 'VISIONS DE L' AMEN'

This masterful piano cycle by Olivier Messiaen was premiered by the composer and his future wife during the Nazi-occupation in Paris. Today, Marilyn Nonken and DaCamera artistic director Sarah Rothenberg team up to recreate the piece. **Dec. 9, 7:30PM. Tickets \$25. The Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross St., 713.524.5050, dacamera.com**

## 7 ALLISON HUNTER AT THE LAURA U COLLECTION

Allison Hunter signs copies of her book of essays and art, *Recent Animals*. See more on Laura U in The Loop Now. **Dec. 10, 5:30PM. The Laura U Collection, 1840 Westheimer Rd., 713.522.0855, laurau.com**

## 8 BLACK TIES AND BIG HEARTS CHARITY BALL

Ring in the New Year with dinner, dancing and a silent auction. **Dec. 31, 8PM. Tickets \$275. Hotel ZaZa, 5701 Main St., 713.526.1991, houstonblacktie.org**

## 9 MARK DELLISOLA AND DANIEL KAYNE EDWARDS

Paintings and mixed-media works from these two artists are interpretations of female and male energy. **Through Jan. 3. Deborah Colton Gallery, 2500 Summer St., 713.869.5151, deborahcoltongallery.com**



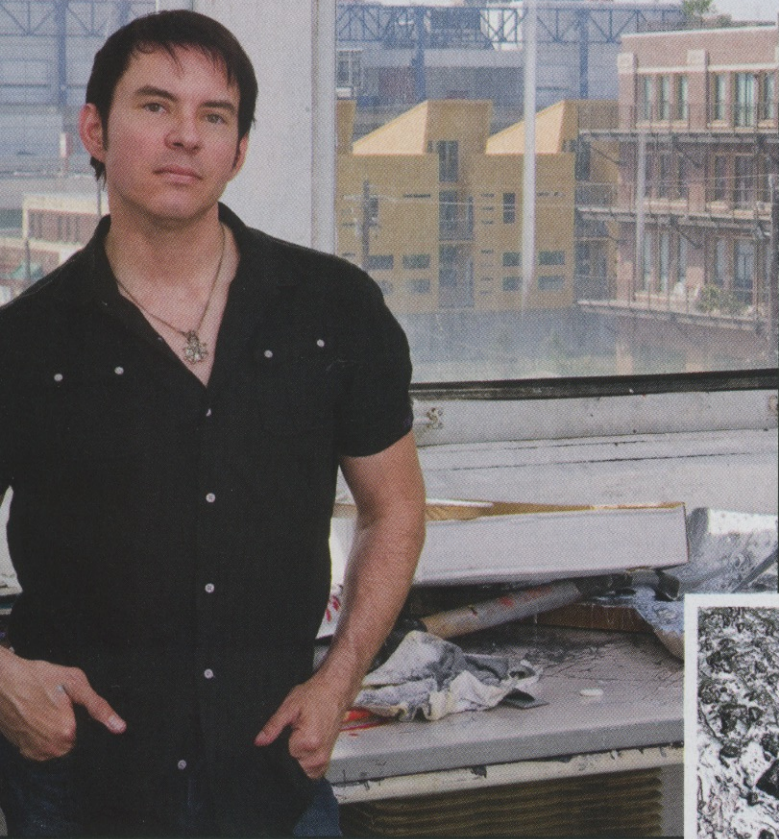
## 10 BOB SCHNEIDER AT HOUSE OF BLUES

This Austin native's dishing out a handful of preview performances while he puts the finishing touches on his upcoming record, *Introducing Bob Schneider*. The new album will no doubt feature Schneider's signature blend of rock, funk, folk and rap. **Dec. 26, 8PM. Tickets \$19. House of Blues, 1204 Caroline St., 888.40.BLUES, ticketmaster.com**



By Nadia Michel  
Photography by Anthony Rathbun

## DANIEL-KAYNE: BUDDHA PIMP



At first glance, daniel-kayne may look like your average Texan. Wearing jeans and a large belt buckle, one might confuse him for your garden-variety cowboy. But dig a little deeper and the vegan artist is anything but.

He paints, meditates and describes his personal style as "Buddha Pimp." He once shared an apartment with a Buddhist monk and he loves to philosophize about religion. One might be surprised danny-kayne is as home-grown as it gets.

Born in Liberty, Texas, kayne was a country boy, the son of a long lineage of ranchers and farmers. He grew up learning about hunting and carpentry, doing all the things country folk still do for themselves. kayne credits his great-grandmother for igniting his passion for nature and traveling. This combination of ruggedness and intellectual curiosity shaped little Danny into the worldly, award-winning, urban artist he is today.

kayne, who divides his time between studios in downtown Houston and TriBeCa, New York, just gained major local street-cred with his "best of show" award at Lawndale Art Center's *The Big Show*. "I was just grateful for having my work selected to be included in what has become an important summer art tradition," he humbly states. The winning pieces exemplify kayne's current mindset. "One is a social/political piece, which first took shape in early 2007 while photographing protesters in Salt Lake City. silk screened an image of one of the protesters – whose message I found personally intriguing – onto a mirror, so that the viewer is pulled

- *Dividing GOD* opens November 15 at Deborah Colton Gallery and runs through January 3, 2009.
- *A Time for Change*, a group show at Deborah Colton Gallery, opens September 20 – November 4.

into the piece. We're all part of current events." The second piece is a large, minimalist metallic painting, which he says reflects his passion to be at peace with himself and the universe.

The paintings are among the large-scale pieces kayne produces in his spacious Houston studio. "Everything is bigger in Texas," he boasts like a true Texan. "NYC is still an amazing art mecca, however, cities like Houston have matured into major forces in the art world."

In NYC, he shares space with fellow artists. He uses that time to work on his technique. His current projects include 10'x 6' paintings that incorporate fiberglass, house paint and aluminum liquid plastic mediums. He is also working on mixed medium sculptures.

kayne's upcoming solo show at the Deborah Colton Gallery is entitled *Dividing*

*GOD*. The series of paintings and sculptures explores divisions in society. His belief that religious zeal is often at the root of social and political conflict is very much at the forefront. "To me, God is basic; God is seen in nature and God is seen in our true beings. How can we divide and claim that which is universal and belongs to all?" His Zen approach is a long way from his strict, religious upbringing in small-town Texas.



Much of the religious evolution kayne has undergone is due to his globetrotting. "I have traveled to Islamic countries and seen their life firsthand. I lived and studied with a Buddhist monk, and I've read about Judaism and other world religions. I find it all very peculiarly complex." Ultimately, it seems his experience living with the Korean monk, while pursuing a residency at the New York School of Visual Arts, made the

biggest impression. His peaceful musings and global vision are very much Buddhist principles.

kayne's work is not all about mystical hullabaloo though. Besides earning a master's degree from the University of Houston, kayne also attended The Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in 2006. In between educational pursuits, he documented his travels in *Urban-Mix*, a series of over 500 images. The photographs exclusively portray human-made objects showing urban decay due to exposure to the elements, human intervention or both. Think metal boxes, poles and walls in cities from Tokyo to London. kayne has no boundaries when it comes to his art. His credo is "Art is an expression of the soul in the physical form." He goes wherever this may take him.

With growing recognition and a future chock-full of exhibits, kayne has much to be thankful for. "Life is GOOD! I used to think being spiritual and at peace was a mystical place. But through a constant love of knowledge and seeking, I found that being spiritual and at peace means to love nature, to love life and enjoy your life, while helping others to do the same. Having fun is an integral part of a happy life, and we are meant to be happy." Amen to that!



# Lower-case name, bold-face talent

By Douglas Britt | HOUSTON CHRONICLE

**W**alking through artist daniel-kayne's East End studio, one of the first things you notice is that he seems to get his materials anywhere but an art-supply store.

Some of his generously scaled paintings are made with liquid plastic and aluminum powder, giving them a metallic sheen and, at times, a topographic quality, as if the viewer was navigating an alien landscape.

Others feature house paint strategically dripped across endless strips of tape made from woven strands of twisted fiberglass — the kind of material you'd expect to find on a construction site.

"I enjoy finding and working with materials that aren't intended for that purpose (making art)," kayne says. "It's almost like an evolution beyond the original intent."

That penchant also applies to kayne's sculptures, which he creates by doctoring found objects.

Medical stools get reassembled to create a candelabra. When kayne found a Catholic figurine that depicts a black Madonna holding a white baby Jesus, he banished it to a corner of his studio, where it sits facing a Koran and a Jewish bible. For a 12-foot-tall piece titled *Worship*, he placed fluorescent light bulbs at the top end of a wooden framework, evoking an altarpiece.

It's all part of kayne's *Dividing God* series, a selection of which comes to Deborah Colton Gallery this month.

"I'm interested in social philosophy related to politics, religion and the (universality) of the way I see life and the earth — and how we're all really just part of it all," he says.

Rejecting what he sees as organized religions tendency to claim that "God belongs to them," kayne says "no one has a right to claim that their belief is the way."

Raised as a Christian in Liberty, where he was born in 1968, kayne developed his ideas about spirituality while traveling to Islamic, Buddhist and Christian countries. He also shared a loft with a Korean Buddhist monk in New York, where he still maintains a studio in addition to his Houston space.



An untitled sculpture on view in *Dividing God*

DANIEL-KAYNE



daniel-kayne  
East End Studio

daniel-kayne's med

That may explain kayne's desire to infuse his generally monochromatic paintings with a meditative quality, allowing viewers to "quiet themselves" and "leave everything else and just enjoy that space where you're at right now."

Meditation aside, kayne has every reason to enjoy where he's at right now.

In August, kayne took home top honors in *The Big Show*, the Lawndale Art Center's annual open-call, juried exhibition. In October, the Texas-French Alliance for the Arts awarded him an arts residency in Paris, scheduled for summer 2009.

"One thing I always say is that this moment is better than the last," he says. "Ideally, I would like to constantly learn, explore, enjoy my life, because this is the time I'm in a physical form, and I don't know if there's anything after."

## *Dividing God*

**When:** Reception 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 15, exhibit through Jan. 3

**Where:** Deborah Colton Gallery, 2445 North; 713-869-5151

**Chron.com/gloss:** Take a video tour of daniel-kayne's studio.