

ArtNotes

M

useum mountings sidestep blockbusters in favor of some rarer fare, beginning with Argentine avant-garde artist **Alejandro Xul Solar** (1887 – 1963) at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, through April 16. See more than 90 paintings in an important international tour ... At the **Contemporary Arts Museum**

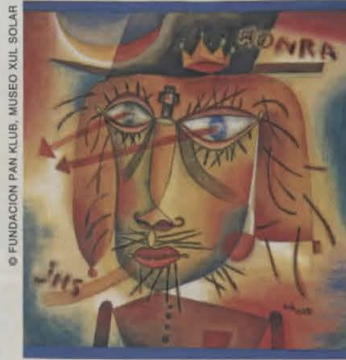
Houston, **Robyn O'Neil** solos. This Whitney Biennial–exhibited Houston artist's exquisite drawings depict droll figures inhabiting an enigmatic, snowy landscape (curated by **Lynn Herbert**; through March 26) ... **The Menil Collection** debuts "**Eva Hesse Drawing**" (through April 23), a peek at the late postwar artist (1936 – 1970) who left an important legacy of poetic, reductive sculpture, painting and drawing. See it here first; after the Menil, it travels to New York and L.A. ... **New World Museum** unfurls the North American premiere of politically charged photographs by late Argentine lensman **Oscar Bony** (1941 – 2001), in collaboration with Dallas' **Pan American Art Gallery** (through February 26) ... Brooklyn artist **David Ellis** transforms **Rice Gallery** in a dramatic installation with 200-some 55-gallon oil drums and two towering figures that converse, emitting musical phrases (through March 5) ... Don't miss the **Mel Chin** retrospective at **The Station Museum of Contemporary Art**. The Houston-born sculptor comes home with provocative fare propelled by social conscience (through April 30) ... At the **Glassell School of Art**, Core program associate director **Mary Leclère** curates "**Andrea Bowers: Letters to an Army of Three**" (through March 5).

Gallery get-downs: Brit-born **Derek Boshier** returns to Texas for his first exhibition in nearly a decade. See his expressionistic figuration at **Moody Gallery** (February 11 – March 11) ... Concurrent with the MFAH exhibition, **Xul Solar** at **Sicardi Gallery** (February 2 – March 5) ... Elvis lives: Catch the King at **Watermark Fine Art Photographs & Books** in lensman **Jeff Scott's** prints (through February 8). While you're there, snap up Scott's riveting tome *Elvis: The Personal Archives* (Channel Photographics, January 2006, \$29.95) ... See **Houston Metal Arts Guild's** "Mind Over Metal" juried by artist **Sharon Dennard** at Colquitt's **Fleury Gallery** (February 11 – March 11) ... Futuristic fare flies at **Deborah Colton Gallery's** "**The Hedonistic Imperative**" (through March 4) ... Sixties legend and very cool New Mexico-based artist **Ron Davis** solos with shimmering 21st-century sculptural abstractions at **New Gallery/Thom Andriola** (February 11 – March 11) ... Another '60s-era abstract grand master, California painter **Jerrold Burchman**, is at **Gremillion & Co. Fine Art** (through February 27) ... Catch **Barbara Davis Gallery's** exciting two-person show for contemporary talents **A. A. Rucci** (a hit at Art Basel Miami Beach) and **Cheonae Kim** (February 11 – March 18) ... Chinese grande dame painter **Wang Qi** (she hung with **Dalí**) is in **International Decor Gallery's** group show (February 10 – March 31) ... In the nonprofits, **Lawndale Art Center's** "Leg," features current Core Fellows collaborating: **Gilad Efrat**, **Carl Z. Sudduth**, **Demetrius Oliver** and **Michael Jones McKean** (February 3 – March 11).

People: Artist-curator-catalyst **Wayne Gilbert** unveils **G Gallery**, 301 E. 11th Street, Friday, February 10, with the edgy group view "**Bros & Sistas**" including **Wheeler Brothers** and **Clayton Brothers** (through March 1) ... **Eugene White**, **George Foster** and **Chuck Holloman** join forces for **OliverCharles Gallery** at 2037 W. Alabama. Now up: tropical-hued abstraction by septuagenarian Cuban painter **Julio Crews** (opening February 9) ... **McKay Otto** solos February 23 at Chelsea artspace **Lemmons Contemporary**, marking the Houston artist's Manhattan debut. A contingent of collectors is jetting up for the opening ... Events: **Houston Center for Photography Auction**, Friday, February 3, Houston City Club (tickets \$50 advance, \$60 door; call 713.529.4755) ... At **MFAH**, the sizzling **Latin American Experience Dinner**, Tuesday, February 14, chaired by **Sofia Androgué** and **Brad Bucher** (tickets \$150; call 713.639.7716) ... **FotoFest Fine Print Auction Pre-Party** at **Bering & James Gallery's** new digs, 805 Rhode Place, Thursday, February 23 (no charge; call 713.529.0351) ... **DiverseWorks Gala**, "Sideshow: Out of This World," Friday, February 24, chaired by **Miri Wilkins** (tickets from \$150; call 713.223.8346) ... **The Hunting Art Prize**, a hefty \$50,000 purse, hits Houston Saturday, April 29. Stay tuned. *Catherine D. Anson*



Jeff Scott's Gold Bedside Phone, at Watermark Fine Art Photographs & Books



Xul Solar's Jefa honra/Honored Patroness, 1923 at MFAH

Making

A Wulfe in Retail

Urban Cowboy

You've seen Ed Wulfe's forest and white signs on hot Houston commercial sites for more than 20 years, and he's been in the business more than 40 years. Now the developer's new-generation Wulfe Urban team, set to implode Houston with some razzle-dazzle retail, is burgeoning Downtown-Midtown arenas. The guerrilla team of **Jeff Kaplan**, **Adam Brackman** and **Monte Large** brings together not only an extensive knowledge of real estate science, but also the belief that inner-city development is a careful mix. Under the guidance of Wulfe's trusty hand, these visionaries are developing urban centers as Kirby and Westheimer, Post and San Felipe, as well as the Downtown/Midtown area. They intend to bring a slew of fresh ideas and fare to the Post Oak area.

KENNON EVETT



Jeff Kaplan, Adam Brackman and Monte Large

JENNY ANTILL



DEBILITATING

Through Silicone

Imagining a "Hedonistic" utopia

More than ever, our culture seems obsessed with doomsday scenarios. Natural disasters, terrorism, pandemics and ham-fisted religious zealotry have whipped America into frenzied fear and anxiety — except, of course, for late-night media evangelists Jack and Rexella Van Impe (Jack has a little orgasm every time a bomb goes off in Israel). "We

each year, vote for politicians who support preemptive war, stock our fallout shelters, say our prayers and wait for the worst," says Graham Guerra, curator of "**Hedonisti Imperative**," a new group exhibit at Deborah Colton Gallery.

With humorous hopefulness, Guerra has imagined an anti-apocalypse — a "psychochemical nirvana" awash in idyllic, futurist



COURTESY OF JERRY KEARNS

imagery, largely based on futurist David Pearce Snyder's Web-published writings on post-Darwinian "paradise engineering" (check it out at www.hedweb.com). "I'd done a lot of reading of mad-scientist, transhumanist stuff," explains Guerra, "where the belief is that the human race will be improved through silicone technology and bio-manipulation." While the conceit is silly, it's also antithetical to what Guerra describes as a "negative-feedback loop" that keeps people in competition but prevents us from getting along with each other.

Guerra chose artists that run the gamut in terms of mediums to represent the coming post-human, silicone-enhanced utopia. From the mutant human forms (gimps, cyborgs and automatons) of Michael Reece and Jerry Kearns to the technological animals of Carl D'Aliva (look for the dog with

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