

gallery reviews

Michael Rees, *Pulfo8 2.2.2.2*, animation and sculpture, 2003.

Deborah Colton Gallery: Integrating the Digital Consciousness

Four artists (Yael Kanarek, Michael Rees, Manfred Mohr and Michael Somoroff) have expanded the use of digital tools to produce art forms that speak to the energy of mind, body, soul, and time. The use of digital imagery in art consciousness provides an innovative way of processing and producing art forms and formulations. Works in this show range from reactive sculpture, software art, data visualization, sound and video installations, photography, mixed media and assembled sculpture.

Yael Kanarek has been developing her integrated media project, *World of Awe* (www.worldofawe.net) for ten years. It is a whimsical journey through her silicon website offering different levels of engagement depending on the time spent on site. Adorning the gallery walls are visualization studies brought to form in digital landscapes with hand-applied embellishments referring to time, love letters, and a digital life journey.

Manfred Mohr's images are displayed in fabricated computer stations and flat screens where he has studied the hypercube in six dimensions. His mind-stretching images are many faceted and surprising. The canvases show lines, areas, and colors in different types of relations, moving in a cubist fashion from all directions, around and through space.

Michael Rees's corresponds to a body-mind-spirit dynamic. Through the use of the computer, his animations and sculptures lay out a territory for a work in progress. It includes the Computer Aided Design (CAD), Rapid Prototyping (RP) output, silicon molding of the RP masters and the creation of multiple, self-similar parts to be constructed into 'thinker toy' structures in which no parts are in agreement. Rees has designed sculptures with such diverse materials as toner-bonded paper, photopolymer resin, epoxy-filled cornstarch, and thermo-plastic.

Michael Somoroff's artistic quest is to free photography from figurative restraint and representative documentation. His interest is in the tracing of time as an extension of space, rendering it into form. His achievement of extending the medium of photography into the realm of sculpture is truly unique. His massive glossy black sculpture of negative time-space gives shape to the cosmic black hole.

Those who are engaged in the cultural advancement of contemporary art should not



miss this showcase of visionary contemporary artists who have each made a name in the international art scene.

- Cindi Harwood Rose

The Deborah Colton Gallery is located at 2500 Summer Street with gallery hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Show dates can be confirmed at 713.864.2364.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: *Murano: Glass from the Olnick Spanu Collection*

Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu have gathered an important collection, representing the rebirth of Murano glass in the 20th century with works ranging from 1914 to the present. The Venetian island has produced masterworks and innovations in the medium since the 1200s, but craftsmanship declined in the 18th century. The birth of modernism and a select group of artisans renewed the form.

Olnick, interviewed in the accompanying film, claims glass "speaks to them" and that most of their pieces are vases because of their functionality. Yet utility is the last thing that comes to mind as one glances over countless designs recalling ancient temples, the palette of brilliant colors, floating metallic flashes, impossibly thin

shapes, bubbling liquid forms and swirling patterns within more patterns. The collection offers hundreds of examples of this work and does a great job of educating with text about the techniques used, as well as, a history of the master artists and workshops.

Yet it is the grace and beauty of glass that truly inspires. No other substance embraces the tension inherent in its fragility against its strength and ability to hold form, along with generating such a dazzling array of color. The collection praises the artists from Murano who continually test the material, building upon ancient techniques and investigating new advances in technology.

Carlo Scarpa, M.V.M. Cappellin & C.,
Trasparente, 1930-31



ArtNotes

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Latin revolution lands next month at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**. Be there: Friday through Sunday, June 18 through 20, for the grand-opening festivities of "Inverted Utopias," a sweeping survey of masterpieces from the southern continent. Concurrently, blue-chip **Sicardi Gallery** mounts an intriguing overview of the subject ... Art deco is white hot, from the **Victoria and Albert Museum's** touring "Art Deco: 1910 - 1939" at the **Legion of Honor** in San Francisco (through July 4) to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art's** peek at the genius of **Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann** in New York (June 8 - September 5). Houston gets deco dazzle as **Parkerson Gallery** presents drawings by rediscovered master **Ivan Mestrovic**, a Croatian-born sculptor who was a student of **Rodin** (through May 29) ... International arrivals and departures: **Booker-Lowe Gallery's** **Nana Booker** and **M. David Lowe** are back from a buying trip to the Australian outback for their eponymous gallery, Texas' only destination for aboriginal fine art ... **Devin Borden** of **Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery** returns from **ARCO** in Madrid, one of 20 global denizens invited for a project space at this prestigious Euro fair, exhibiting an installation by **Joe Havel**. Attendees at the fair included **King Juan Carlos of Spain** ... **Sonja Roesch** transports her minimalist stable to **Art Frankfurt** (May 7 - 10) ... May melds high and low. **The Glassell School of Art's** "New Infinities: Visualizing a Post-romantic Sublime" culls the international trio of **Andreas Gursky**, **Olafur Eliasson** and **Christian Eckart**, the latter living in Houston, represented by **McClain Gallery** (through June 9). Then rocket to the raucous rite of spring, aka the **Art Car Parade**, launching Friday, May 7, with a juicy, jubilant downtown block party, while the parade rolls Saturday, May 8. Information www.orangeshow.org. Oh, did we mention that **Mayor Bill White** just

awarded the parade a \$10,000 grant? ... Houston's newest art spaces include: **Deborah Colton Gallery** in **David Adickes'** wondrous warehouse complex at 2500 Summer (Colton's May view: photo-digital works by New York notables including **Michael Somoroff**, through June 26); **De Santos'** project space, soon to be kicked off (**L2** will continue the photo theme, but with a local emphasis); **The Art House** at 5346-B Westheimer, offering a 6,000-square-foot rendezvous for Houston talents (the group turn "I Love Red" explores the pigment red across all media, through

Ivan Mestrovic's *Three Nudes* at Parkerson Gallery



Parade

HOUSTON MAY 2004

—Get Out of Town—
The Travel Issue

UPTOWN
DOWNTOWN

New York

ArtNotes

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ouston is the hot spot this month, and the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, is the place to be for the breathtaking blockbuster "Inverted Utopias: Avant-garde Art in Latin America." Mark your calendars for the grand-opening weekend: Friday through Sunday, June 18 through 20. The most comprehensive overview of art from the southern continent ever mounted in North America, this show is

expected to remap modernism, revealing movements from the 1920s through the 1970s that coolly contrast **Diego Rivera** and **Frida Kahlo's** vivid figuration. Think cubism, constructivism and an elegant, inspired minimalism. This exhibit promises a revolution (through September 12) ... Concurrently, **Sicardi Gallery's** compelling "Parallel Stories: Brazilian and Venezuelan Abstract-Constructive Art" details the optimistic works from the 1950s and 1960s created in those two countries (June 16 - August 14). We'll bring you a detailed guide to both exhibits next month ... After you investigate the show at Sicardi, step next door to **McClain Gallery** where "Brave New World" melds hometown hero **Jason Villegas** with international notables **Matthew Ritchie** and **Rebecca Horn** (through July 3) ... Other top gallery stops: **Deborah Colton** for an insightful examination of four cutting-edge artists foraying into the digital domain, including **Yael Kanarek's** must-see mythic kingdom, *World of Awe* (through June 29) ... Major news gallery-side: Downtown denizen **Kerry Inman**, once slated to move **Inman Gallery** to the still-in-progress **4411 Montrose** building, is relocating to Midtown. Inman will open midsummer in the historic, architecturally acclaimed Isabella Courts complex. The gallery's new address, 3901 Main Street, boasts a stunning, 2,900-square-foot modernist space, complete with video room. A July grand opening is planned, aptly timed for **ArtHouston** (Saturday, July 10) ... Gender is an oh-so-topical issue on the scene. At the **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**, curator **Valerie Cassel** presents "Boys Behaving Badly," a prescient examination of male adolescence as portrayed by today's artists of the avant-garde (June 25 - September 12) ... Across town

