

APRIL

PaperCITY

ArtNotes

April's amazing. First art stop: the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, for Raphael's painting *La Fornarina*, which is to this Renaissance master what *Mona Lisa* was to Leonardo. Catch this beguiling femme through April 17. After its first-ever U.S. tour, the portrait returns to Palazzo Barberini, Rome ... **FotoFest** mounts "**Nazar: Photographs from the Arab World**" at dual venues: FotoFest's Vine Street HQ (historical and contemporary Arab photography, April 8 – June 11) and the **ArtCar Museum** (western lensmen who turned their eyes on the Arab region, April 23 – June 25) ... The **Levant Foundation** brings an exhibition of painters from the Middle East to **Gremillion & Co. Fine Art** (April 7 – 12). While you're at this glossy space, which turns 25 this year, investigate the abstract canvases by **Stan Berning** (opening April 2), a New Mexico artist whose works are featured in **Campbell Scott's** new film *Off the Map* ... Cult figure **Jonas Mekas** comes to **Deborah Colton Gallery** with his frozen film frames series (opening April 1); his flicks screen at **Aurora Picture Show** April 3 ... Aurora also sizzles with "**Media Archaeology**" (April 13 – 17), a film festival at multiple venues saluting artists who reuse found media. Schedule: www.aurora-pictureshow.org ... Just in: A once-in-a-lifetime **Toulouse-Lautrec** print portfolio from 1896, "**Elles**" — considered Lautrec's greatest achievement in color lithography — opens at powerhouse **Gerhard Wurzer Gallery** April 1 ... More top touts: **Terrie Sultan** curates "**Terry Allen: Stories from DUGOUT**" at **Blaffer Gallery** (April 16 – June 11), a multimedia, panoramic staging of the West Texas-born artist's bio-narrative of romance, music and baseball. (Long-time dealer **Betty Moody** offers other works by Allen at her Colquitt space.) ... **Curry Glassell's Studio 314** mounts a must-see view for **Suzanne Manns** with installations invoking the natural world via spiderwebs and roses (opening April 16) ... **McClain Gallery's "I-10,"** curated by **Scott Peveto**, serves up a snapshot of hip, emerging Houston-to-L.A. talents who reside along Interstate 10 (April 21 – May 21) ... Texas grand master **Earl Staley's** epic gestural canvases will wow at **Harris Gallery** (April 2 – 30) ... Don't miss fashionista **Marianne Green** at **McMurtrey Gallery** (April 22 – May 28) or hotly collected painter **Steve Perrault's** hypnotic realism at **Dean Day Gallery** (April 22 – May 28) ... "**Contemporary Pinhole Photography**" at **De Santos Gallery** features 100-plus prints from 35 global protagonists (April 9 – May 14) ... See New York sculptor **Tom Fruin's** tapestries made from discarded drug bags, "**The Real Dope**," at **New Gallery/Thom Andriola** (April 22 – May 29) and Rice professor **Darra Keeton's** macrocosmic abstractions at **Rudolph Projects/ArtScan Gallery** (opening April 9) ... At **Meredith Long & Company, Rachel Hovnanian's** elegiac canvases probe beauty and its passing (opening April 21) ... And glass is everywhere, from the **Galveston Arts Center's "Texas Juried Glass"** (through April 17) to the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's** solo for **Mary Shaffer** (April 1 – June 5) ... People: Nationally shown photo artist **Allison Hunter** takes the reins as interim executive director at **Houston Center for Photography** ... At the MFAH, **Paul Johnson** comes aboard as the new go-to development guy; **Margaret Skidmore** retires this summer after nearly 27 years. Johnson arrives from a big post at **SFMOMA** ... The MFAH appoints **Toshiaki Koseki** as its first-ever conservator of photography ... **Fresh Arts Coalition's** new associate director, **Colleen Fischer**, joins the advocacy organization after four years at the Alley Theatre ... Buildings: **4411 Montrose** forecasts an April 16 opening. Expect dealers **Barbara Davis, Anya Tish** and **Joan Wich**. Pie and pastry haven **Tart Cafe** completes the roundup ... **Winter Street Studios** finalizes a massive remodeling, with artists such as **Sandi Seltzer Bryant** signing for space. Don't miss the **Art Swap Meet and Studio Open House** Saturday, April 2 ... More must-dos: **Midtown Visions Cultural Arts Tour** is Saturday, April 9, starting at **Art Square Studios**, 2711 Main Street. Information 713.443.8490 ... **Indian Summer Lodge's** daylong **Art Market** is Saturday, April 2 ... And the **Sam Houston Hotel's** hip convergence of fine art and wine, "**Palette**," kicks off Wednesday, April 6, with guest artists **Ann Stautberg** and **Frank X. Tolbert II**. Information 832.200.8800. *Catherine D. Ansporn*

>What's Inside

Raphael Sanzio's



artshouston

MAGAZINE

Houston's monthly guide to the performing and visual arts

may 2006

backstage

Historic Houston expanded its influence beyond vintage homes last month to focus on vintage cars and aircraft. The group worked with the **Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society** to sponsor an open house at the **1940 Municipal Air Terminal Museum** west of Hobby airport. Families arrived – including by aircraft – to tour the museum and vintage vehicles and planes.

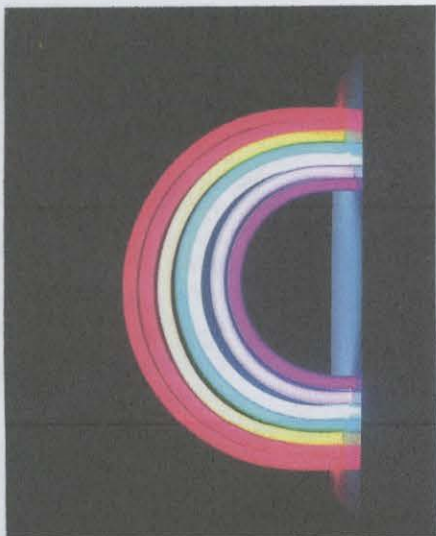
Congratulations to Lithuanian filmmaker **Jonas Mekas**, founder of the Anthology Film Archives in New York. In April both Houston's **Deborah Colton Gallery** and the international art journal *Frieze* both featured the artist and his work.

chitecture: a shimmering, glowing swirl of oranges, yellows and golds, to further explore and discuss these exciting 'salonierres' as well as auction artists **L.C. Armstrong, Polly Apfelbaum** and **Christopher French.** For more information, call 713.743.9530.

Speaking of shimmer-

with Janet H. Moore

may editor's picks



Ultra Violet at the Deborah Colton Gallery

Having spent many moments of solitude in the spacious gardens of her New York apartment, Ultra Violet is deeply inspired by the light and the sky. She feels light is essential, and that there is no greater embodiment of light and optimism than the rainbow. Rainbows provide a universal inspiration to many since they arrive after a dark storm to reveal the beauty of a normal day. Rainbows are free, can be seen all over the world, and have no social, racial or economic boundaries. Ultra Violet feels that by accepting and acknowledging the dark, but overpowering it with a vision of good and light, that we as a society have the capacity to create universal peace, balance and happiness by going to a higher level than the material stratifications and myopic, ethnocentric thinking that divide rather than unify. Ultra Violet believes that through the rainbow, and by viewing the beauty of the sky each day, whether a dark day or light, we can find simple answers to the complications of this crazy, dehumanized 21st century world. In her show *LIGHT: The Mirror of the Soul*, which opens at Deborah Colton Gallery on May 13th, Ultra Violet will transform the space of the gallery with a "sky installation" accompanied by seven neon rainbows. Through July 1st, 2500 Summer Street, 3rd floor, 713.864.2364, www.deborahcoltongallery.com