

Art Notes

Here Come the Eccentrics: First up, we toast those who defy a label or easy speculation. How to categorize the hermetic, visionary but decidedly non-naïve talent **Forrest Bess** (1911 – 1977)? His “Seeing Things Invisible” at **The Menil Collection**, organized by **Clare Elliott** with an archival intervention by like-minded artist **Robert Gober**, is as good as it gets. See why the Bay City abstract painter who eked out a living as a fisherman was able to break into the ranks of powerhouse NYC gallerist **Betty Parson**, where his tiny abstractions held their own in her stable with Pollock and Rothko (through August 18) ... We’ve always been impressed by eccentrics of our own time, beginning with Lubbock-based painter of the plains **Jeffrey Wheeler**, who was recently awarded a Dozier Travel Grant from the Dallas Museum of Art. Wheeler, one half of The Wheeler Brothers, returns to **G Gallery** in a solo organized by the G’s director **Diane Barber**. Barber tells us that the pop prognosticator has so many works that the final weekend of the show is actually part two of his exhibition (June 1 – 30) ... Then there’s **Patrick Turk**, a Round Seven **Lawndale Art Center’s** artist-in-residence. We think of him as a New Victorian, so obsessive is his fixation with collage making, the phylum of the flora and fauna realm, old natural history volumes and the concept of *The Superorganism*, all glammed up with enhancement of hundreds of crystal rhinestones (through June 15) ... **Blaffer Art Museum** mounts the wild installations of **Andy Coolquitt**, which often resemble a bull in a secondhand shop, as was the case in his site-specific creation for the inaugural Texas Contemporary Art Fair in 2011; the Blaffer’s **Claudia Schmuckli** organizes the Austin-based sculptor’s first-ever museum show (complete with a hefty catalog, through August 17) ... Catch the final weeks of photogs **Lester Marks**, **Allen Bianchi** (best known as architect) and **Mary Ann Strandell** at **Deborah Colton Gallery**. Marks and Bianchi serve up fresh takes on futuristic abstractions, while Strandell explores circa-1960s department stores via lenticular prints (all through July 6). Also, don’t miss **Hiram Butler Gallery’s** view for **Terrell James**, whose epic pair of scroll-like abstractions depict a maritime forest in North Carolina while recalling the grand tradition of Chinese landscape painting (through June 29) ... Speaking of landscape, the master is **William Anzalone**, whose decades long love affair with the country ‘round Round Top continues in his current one-person at **Red & White Gallery** in Fayetteville (through June 15) ... Also unexpected, but closer to home, is **Uptown Park’s** contest for emerging photographers at **BB1 Classic** (June 20 – July 3: reception Thursday, June 20, 6 to 8 pm) with the winner celebrated at the European-styled shopping center’s marquee (through June). **New and Notable:** On Colquitt, collector and biz woman **Nicole Longnecker** takes over the former Goldesberry space with her eponymous new gallery; her season opener showcases Houston man of metal **Devon Moore** (June 1 – July 6) ... On West Alabama, we have the arrival of photo space **D.Pict**, showing **Dixie Messner’s** views of Paris (through July 12), as well as the recently minted **BlueOrange** at 1208 West Gray, owned by siblings **Jacob Spacek** and **Megan Spacek**, who roll out **Ben Mata’s** adroit minimalist paintings, executed on aluminum panels employing oil and power tools (through June 15) ... Stay tuned for game-changing news of **Kerry Inman’s** next big adventure: adding a new building to her roster while continuing in her expansive Isabella Court digs, where she is the anchor and founding dealer for the entire Isabella lineup. **Just in:** Brasil’s **Dan Fergus** downsizes **Domy Books** and moves it to the spot once occupied by Raye to make room for a new gallery. The enticing venture, with cohorts **Cody Ledvina** of **The Joanna** and filmmaker **Patrick Bresnan**, returns Domy’s original locale to its glory days as an art space. **The Last Word:** **Arthouston** is undergoing a revamp led by Harris Gallery’s **Mariah Rockefeller** and **Sarah Beth Wilson**, recently of William Reaves Fine Art. They’ll continue the summertime tradition of a citywide open house hosted by our premier gallerists, but tweak it by adding food trucks, a DJ and some soon-to-be-revealed happenings. *PaperCity* again serves as media sponsor for the dual nights and one day of openings, Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13. Peruse these pages next month for our top Arthouston picks and follow papercitymag.com. *Catherine D. Ansporn*



Jeffrey Wheeler's *Class of 1978*, 2012, at G Gallery



Patrick Turk's *The Superorganism* (detail), 2013, at Lawndale Art Center

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Calendar

May 2013

Visual Arts

'Muse'

Local artist Jade Cooper presents oil paintings and charcoal works depicting African-American females. Through **June 2**. *Houston Museum of African American Culture*, 4807 Caroline St., 713.526.1015, hmaac.org

'Subduction Zones'

Houston artist Bob Russell uses repurposed materials to create mixed-media works, telling the story of man's relationship with earth. **May 2-28**, opening reception **May 4**, 5PM. *Jung Center*, 5200 Montrose Blvd., 713.524.8253, jungcenter.com

'The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning'

The Cyrus Cylinder, created around 530 B.C. and inscribed with orders from the Persian King, arrives at the MFA.

May 3-June 14. *Museum of Fine Arts*, 1001 Bissonnet St., 713.639.7300, mfah.org

'Laundry'

Gallerist Yvonamor Palix curates a "still life performance piece," created by painter/printmaker Joëlle Verstraeten and filmmaker Jean Francois Jans. **May 4**, 3PM and 6PM. *Residence of Joëlle & Geoffrey Petit*, 7627 River Point Dr., 281.467.6065, yvonamorpalixart.com

Mark Bercier

Louisiana artist Bercier has spent the last decade creating "The Healin' Symbols," an integration of words and images that appears in his paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. **May 4-27**. *Redbud Gallery*, 303 E. 11th St., 713.862.2532, redbudgallery.com

'Social Lens'

UH grad David Graeve uses his art to inspire cultural tolerance and celebrate diversity. **May 18-**

July 6. *Deborah Colton Gallery*, 2445 N. Blvd., 713.869.5151, deborahcoltongallery.com

Light Fluid

Art collector Lester Marks' own works find the light and shine.

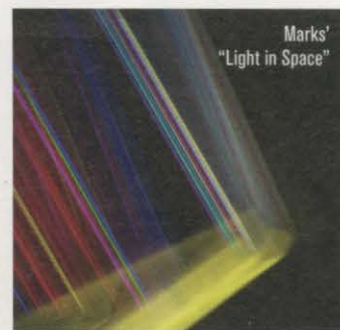
Called out as one of the world's top art collectors by industry publications, **Lester Marks** continues to deserve the praise. But it's the collector's own works that have earned him a solo exhibit at **Deborah Colton Gallery** (2445 North Blvd., 713.869.5151).

Marks' new photographic works, titled *Rapture: Light in Space*, depict chromatic rays of light floating between frames, bouncing colors back and forth effortlessly; the result is mysterious and dreamlike. "I have created and/or captured hidden realities, as seen through the eyes of a dreamer," the artist says. More than 20 of Marks' pieces hang in the gallery, creating a space of sensitive light and ambient color.

"It's all very futuristic," says gallerist Colton. "It really does give you a sense of wonderment throughout the space."

Inspired by mystery and imagination, Marks' works capture color in a new ethereal light. "Lester presents his works in such an intelligent and poetic way," says Colton. "It's almost as if his pieces are having a dialogue between each other." —NE

May 18-July 6. *Deborah Colton Gallery*, 2445 N. Blvd., 713.869.5151, deborahcoltongallery.com



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