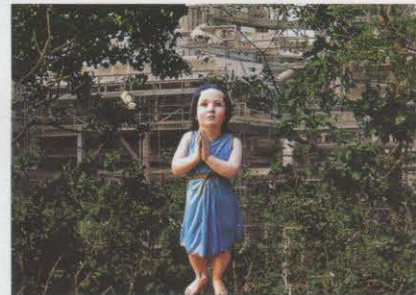


Parade

HOUSTON AUGUST 2009

ARTNOTES

Film Fervor/Gallery Fever: Make tracks to the movies this month. Not you're local cineplex, but the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's** Mies van der Rohe-designed auditorium, as MFAH curator **Marian Luntz** culls a smoldering tribute to **Gina Lollobrigida, Sophia**



John Berry's *Angel in the Forest*, 2009, at G Gallery

Loren, and Anna Magnani in "Signore e Signore: Leading Ladies of Italian Cinema" (Fridays through Sundays, August 21 through September 20; mfaah.org/film) ... Hit the galleries, including two **ArtHouston** offerings that should be *required* viewing. First, **Moody Gallery** holds a sibling doubleheader for **Bonnie** and **Linda Lynch**, West Texas-raised sisters who foray respectively into ceramics and drawing (hurry, ends August 12). And at **Gallery Sonja Roesch**, Houston painter **Jonathan Leach** serves up a superb melding of architecture and abstraction informed by a fresh color palette (through August 29) ... New views: **G Gallery** presents our favorite neurosurgeon-artist, hometown doc **John Berry**, whose photographs are populated by angel activity (August 1 – 31) ... At **Deborah Colton Gallery**, NYC downtown scenester **Maripol** is paired with Saks Fifth Avenue Houston's **Luis Arsenio Gonzalez**; the former's "Little Red Riding Hood" show marries photography with drawing and textiles, while the latter's fashion-focused paintings possesses an expressionist edge (August 19 – September 12) ... Don't forget our favorite collective, **I Love You Baby**, back with panache at Montrose space-in-the-living-room **Joanna Gallery** (through August, by appointment, call 713.825.1803).

Group Activity: Catch the final week of **Lawndale Art Center's** "The Big Show," juried by **Laura Fried** of Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Investigate tri-winners **Buster Graybill, Maria Christina Jadick, and M.E. Buddy Marrs**, the latter a current Huntsville inmate (through August 8). Just in: **James Surls** jets in to speak Wednesday, August 26, as LAC hits 30 ... Gallerist **Apama Mackey** curates the intriguingly titled "Paramilitary Show," activating the historic **Houston Fire Museum** (2403 Milam) with hometown notables **Sharon Engelstein**, collector and art car artist **Ann Harithas, J Hill, Ariane Roesch, Wayne Gilbert, and Patrick Renner**, all alongside internationals **Luciana Abait** and **Ronald Moran** (through September 19) ... Knit one, purl two at **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's** subversive "Unknitting: Challenging Contemporary Traditions" (through September 13) ... Contemplate **El Franco Lee II's** urban-flavored paintings, which pulse with a hip hop beat at **Art League Houston** (through August 28), while **Ken Mazzu** showcases adroit new watercolors at **Galveston Arts Center in Exile** at the historic Panama Hotel on the island (through August 9). **Wedded Bliss:** Gallerist **Bevin Bering** is engaged to collector-type **Dan Dubrowski**, with an October wedding in the works ... Mr. Houston Painting, aka **Dick Wray**, and Florida-based financial wizard **Beth Collins** celebrated their nuptials with a reception at Wray's dealer, **Wade Wilson Art**. The couple will make their home in the Heights. **Be There:** Make tracks to the **Houston Museum of Natural Science** for Mixers & Elixirs to direct your own "Night at the Museum" (Friday nights, through August 28; tickets at hmns.org). Stage craft: Don't miss **Ensemble Theatre's** black-tie gala Friday, August 14, at Hilton Americas-Houston (713.807.4306). *Catherine D. Ansporn*



IT'S ALL ABOUT ...

Maripol... 'Dynasty'... Trompe l'Oeil... Ivana's Gym Gear... Wardrobe Extenders.

Maripol (center) hanging out with friends in her New York loft.

Snap, Dazzle and Pop

An '80s scenester clicks with the season.

Perusing the pages of Maripol's book of Polaroids, "Maripolarama," taken between 1976 and 1992, you might think you have stumbled onto a time warp.

Is that really a decades-old picture of Edwige and Bianca Jagger, and not an outtake from the latest Marc Jacobs show? Those big jackets that Klaus Nomi is wearing sure look a lot like the new Margiela. And isn't that the same punkish hair and makeup featured in Steven Meisel's recent story for Italian Vogue?

The 1980s, for those of you who have been hibernating in a Norma Kamali sleeping-bag coat, are back. And Maripol, a photographer, stylist and designer who helped define that era's downtown scene, is enjoying a well-deserved comeback. Aside from her Polaroids, which rival Warhol's for their fabulous cast of characters (Grace Jones, Debbie Harry, Keith Haring et al.), Maripol was famous for her inexpensive jewelry, which was initially sold at Fiorucci and then at Maripolitan, her boutique on Bleecker Street. Maripol also worked on videos and ad

campaigns with Jean-Paul Goude, and you can thank her for the rubber bangles that were copied and sold around the world after her friend Madonna wore them from wrist to elbow during her "Lucky Star" period. "Meeting Madonna was a blessing," Maripol says, "but then everybody copied me." Maripolitan went bankrupt in 1986.

But style hunters who weren't around for Maripol's first iteration will soon be able to experience the French expat's singular brand of cool. She is working on a line of fluorescent Lucite bracelets, necklaces inspired by sea urchins (Maripol is an enthusiastic scuba diver) and, possibly, T-shirt dresses with updated

versions of her favorite geometric motifs, to be sold at Marc by Marc Jacobs boutiques early next year. Says Jacobs: "I love the naïve, simple vibe and eccentricity of Maripol's designs."

But why exactly is it that designers are as drawn to the '80s as Proust to a madeleine? "That was the last era when there was a sense of freedom and do-it-yourself spirit," Maripol says. "Style wasn't laid out. You didn't need to be a millionaire to start something, and you didn't need to have P.R. to talk to somebody — there was no need to hide behind walls of communication."

If only *that* trend could be revived. . . .

ARMAND LIMNANDER



Rogues and dolls Edwige and Bianca Jagger photographed by Maripol, back when everyone was bold, heavily made up and dressed for excess.



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1. A bracelet prototype for Maripol's new line with Marc by Marc Jacobs. 2. Madonna made rubber bangles a global trend. 3. Anna Schroeder in an atomic T-shirt print. 4. A newer-than-now look from Maripol's friend Pru Walters.



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MARIPOL'S HOUSTON SHOW

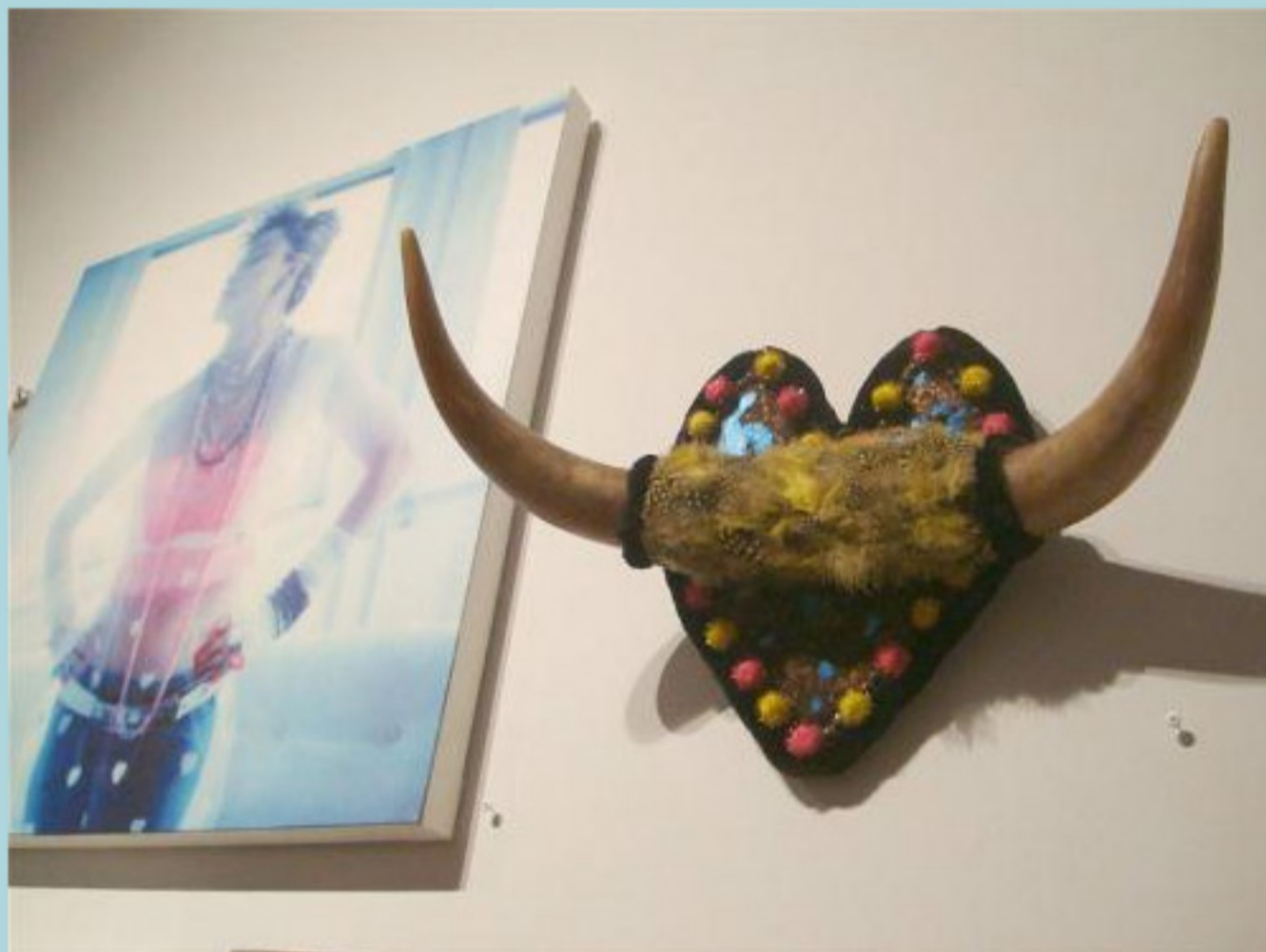
August 2009:

Jason assisted Artist/Curator Maripol with the exhibit design, artwork production, and installation of her "**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD: Story of a Fashionista**" Exhibit at Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, Texas.

Hosted by Saks Fifth Avenue, the event was billed as a "AN EVENING OF ART, FASHION AND FANTASY" and was sponsored Saks Fifth Avenue, Hotel ZaZa, Bombay Sapphire and Houston's PaperCITY Magazine.

From the show's Media Release:

"For the first time, Maripol will be using diverse media such as canvas, clothing, objects, photography, paint and assemblage. This most recent body of work draws influence from her past and her varied career as both an artist and as a fashionista, a role she developed ever since her childhood..."



Maripol(center) surrounded by blond Houston socialites, including philanthropist **Carolyn Farb**, directly to her right.



Jason and Maripol. Behind them is a glimpse of some of the unique artwork produced especially for this Houston show.