

# ArtHouston Redux

**F**rom "Houston Gallery Walls to the Whitney's Hallowed Halls" should be the tag line for **ArtHouston**, which gets a fresh redux this month. Yet the annual event — conceived some 30 summers ago as "Introductions" to inject energy into the sultry month of July — remains true to its original vision. ArtHouston still serves up a cool and concise showcase of our best and brightest visual talents, but now with a welcome tweak. What's new:

**Harris Gallery's Mariah Rockefeller** and independent visual collaborator **Sarah Beth Wilson** handcraft two evenings of experiences — Friday, July 12, at the **4411 Montrose Gallery Building**, followed by **Colquitt Gallery Row** openings the next night — which bookend the day-long art trek on Saturday, July 13. Watch for food trucks, brews by Adelbert's of Austin, DJ spins by **Jason McElweenie** and, above all, some intriguing visual fare. The entire action is sponsored by *PaperCity*. Here are our best bets among the 30-plus showings: **Moody Gallery's** stellar print exhibition, boasting lithographs and serigraphs by **Debra Barrera**, **Gael Stack** and the late great

**Luis Jimenez**; **Amy C. Evan's** droll, Pop-informed paintings at **Koelsch Gallery**; man of stripes **Rob Reasoner** at **McClain Gallery**; **Murielle White's** expansive ab-ex canvases at **McMurtrey Gallery**; Down Under notable **Daisy Moss Kemarra** at **Booker-Lowe Gallery**; **Brad Forsythe's** pristine hyperreal paintings on aluminum at **Dean Day Gallery**; photog/printmaker **Evan Rottet** among the emergents at **Barbara Davis Gallery**; the incredibly named "FunkMotor" group show at **Peveto** devoted to the wild ride of street art and graffitists, in affiliation with **UP Art Studio**; **Lillian Warren's** pitch-perfect figural groupings drawn from airport lounges and other public spots at **Anya Tish Gallery**; and Guam-based **Mark Dell-Isola**, who unveils four new series of his hallucinatory abstracts. And here's a note for your acquisitions

radar: Whitney Biennial talents including Julie Mehretu, Yun-Fei Ji, Shahzia Sikander, Leandro Erlich and our fave Dario Robleto, once soloed at ArtHouston. Don't miss this convergence. For the complete lineup, visit [arthouston.com](http://arthouston.com).  
*Catherine D. Ansporn*

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ANYA TISH GALLERY



Lillian Warren's *Waitscape #50*, 2013, at Anya Tish Gallery

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND KOELSCH GALLERY



Amy C. Evans' *Pearl Spiked Her Drink*, 2013, at Koelsch Gallery

## ART

# The gallery scene lightens up for summer

By Molly Glentzer

High-dollar collectors may be cooling their heels in Aspen, Colo., or Santa Fe, N.M., but many of Houston's art galleries expect their biggest crowds of the year next weekend.

The catalyst is ArtHouston, an annual event launched 34 years ago by the Houston Art Dealers Association to stir up business in the sweltering season. In the beginning, they called it Introductions and focused on new, often local, talent.

Some of the 30 galleries participating this year still see it as an opportunity to encourage discovery. Others are trotting out their entire stable for group shows. All are hosting receptions or open houses,



d.m. allison art

"Saved by the Bell" is among the works by Austin artist Jenny Meyer on view in "Favor Town" at d.m. allison art through July 27.

## ArtHouston 2013

**When:** Opening receptions 6-8:30 p.m. Friday at 4411 Montrose and 5-8 p.m. along Colquitt. Most galleries also host open houses during their regular business hours Saturday.

**Admission:** Free; complete list available at [www.arthouston.org](http://www.arthouston.org) or at any participating gallery.

and food trucks will add to the festive atmosphere.

You might think of it as a slightly decentralized art fair, with action spread from the Heights to Midtown and the Museum and Upper Kirby districts. There's something for every taste and every budget, with works across the full range of media and styles — abstract to realistic painting, mixed-media constructions, sculpture, drawings and works on paper, including photography.

Dan Allison, the owner of d.m. allison art on Colquitt, says in the past few years his gallery has sold more in July and August than in the once-busier months of September and October. He thinks ArtHouston is partly to thank. The city's two fall art fairs, which are returning for a third year in September and October, may be partly to blame because people get "arted out."

Fairs are affecting permanent galleries, Allison said. "I wanted a gallery where you can show and light the work properly," he added, "where it's not so much about having to make \$10,000 or more to pay for a booth."

For ArtHouston, he likes



Deborah Colton Gallery

See Mark Dell'Isola's eye-opening paintings, including "Double Circle," Saturday through Aug. 24 at Deborah Colton Gallery.

to offer "a breath of fresh air, something completely different and new," he said. "Young talent is good. And it's a lot about color; that's just instinctive, with the holiday atmosphere. Nothing too morose, although sometimes, during the rest of the year, I exhibit darker works."

His July show, which opened Saturday, offers both color and youth, with an important first solo show for Jenny Meyer, an

emerging Austin artist whose "super-flat" pop-art influenced paintings reference Disney figures.

Vivid color also figures prominently in a solo show by the internationally known Mark Dell'Isola at Deborah Colton Gallery on North Boulevard. In this case, it's inspired by the tropical environment of the South Pacific islands. Dell'Isola, who's from Guam, creates rich, quiltlike compositions densely

layered with watercolor, acrylic, oil and enamel.

"It's very original and ornate," Colton said. "He spends months and months on each one. It's becoming kind of an old-fashioned thing for an artist to put so much time and deliberation into painting, and he's doing it in a place almost untouched by the 21st century. These days, so many artists are working quickly in digital formats or doing conceptual work that can be nothing more than slapping a piece of paper on the wall."

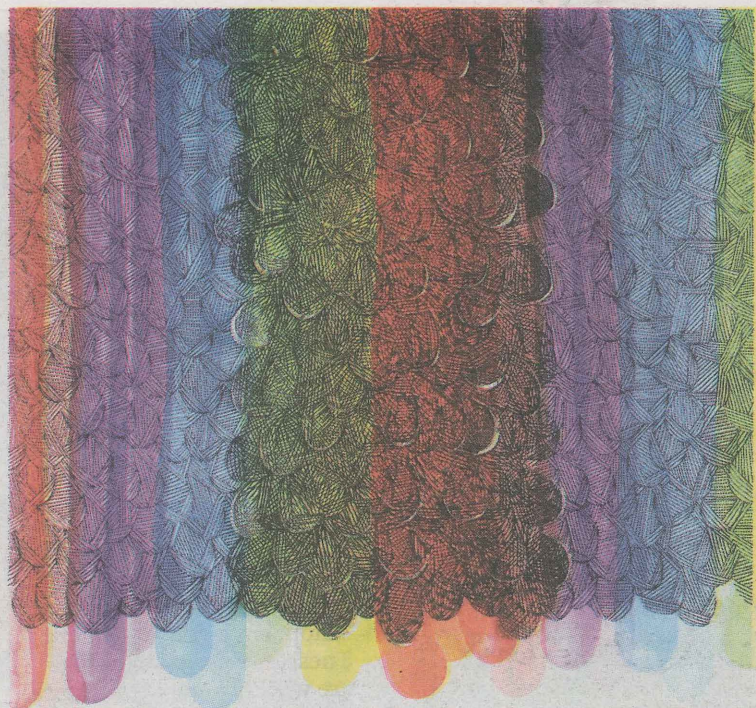
Colton is Dell'Isola's only U.S. dealer, but he hasn't had a solo show in Houston since 2008. She decided to feature him during ArtHouston because his work shows best in the summer, she said. "It's bright and vibrant."

G Gallery on 11th Street also is in the mindset with "Variations in Color," a group show featuring six contemporary artists who work with abstraction.

This also seems to be the summer of graffiti art. With a magnificent graffiti show still on view at the Station Museum, Peveto on Colquitt has invited Up Art Studios to "wreck shop," as they say, for its second annual "Funkmotor" group show. Expect a lively scene there Saturday, with the latest hours of all — until 11 p.m. — and a pop-up shop of fashion, jewelry and graffiti supplies.

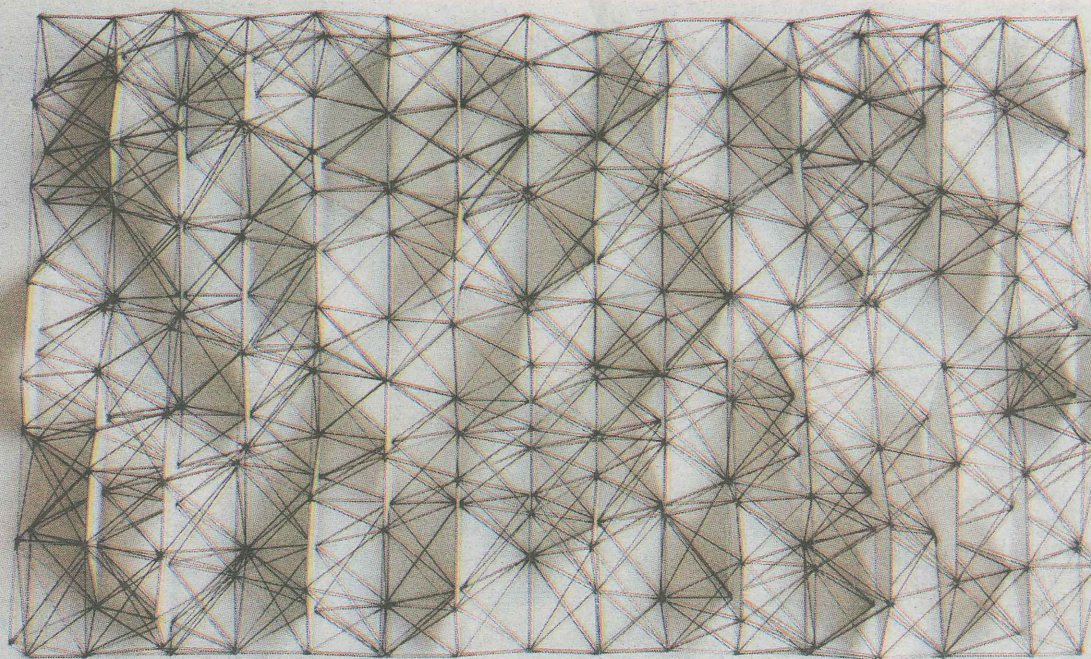
Nicole Longnecker, a newcomer entering her second month in business with a namesake gallery on Colquitt, is featuring four

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Barbara Davis Gallery

**Jason Yates' "The Twins" is part of the group show "Going My Way," on view Friday through Aug. 31 at Barbara Davis Gallery.**



Sicardi Gallery

**Mariano Dal Verme, who sculpts with graphite and paper, speaks Saturday at Sicardi Gallery.**

up-and-coming artists in a show themed "Interpretive Voices." Jessica Dupuis, a North Carolina artist who worked several years ago as an artist in residence at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft; Erin Stafford of Dallas; Megan Harrison of San Antonio; and Jade Cooper of Houston represent a range, Longnecker said.

"A couple of them have had pieces shown here and there, but for the most part they're all new, and this is something fun for summer," she said.

Longnecker said more than 400 people attended her gallery's first opening last month, and she expects ArtHouston to bring people who may not have visited yet. A former accountant and longtime collector, she likes art that tells a story. "What sets us apart is a fresh eye. I'm from a different background," she said.

Sicardi Gallery on Richmond, which specializes in work by Latin American artists, will introduce Mariano



Anya Tish Gallery

**"Alone Together," a solo show of "Waitscapes" by Lillian Warren, comes to Anya Tish Gallery Friday through Aug. 24.**

Dal Verme, a Buenos Aires, Argentina, artist it's been watching for some time, says Laura Wellen, manager of research and communications. The gallery doesn't yet represent Dal Verme, but he's in residence for about a month, building delicate geometrical pieces that incorporate strands of graphite with cut paper. His

works riff on the definition of drawing, Wellen said.

Occupying the gallery's upstairs Project Space, they're paired with large, linear works downstairs by the masterful Pablo Siquier. "Formally, they work really well together, but it's also an interesting pairing because they both work in Buenos Aires, in a similar



Laura Rathe Fine Art

**Laura Rathe Fine Art exhibits photography by George Krause Saturday through Aug. 17.**

tradition," Wellen added. She hopes ArtHouston will bring new people in to see both.

It's not all about newness. Laura Rathe Fine Art on Colquitt is exhibiting black-and-white photographs by the veteran George Krause, who

recently retired from teaching.

Although they hope next weekend's receptions bring some new, regular customers, most gallery owners still consider summer a slow time. At Koelsch Gallery on Yale, Saturday's event is a closing party for a group show that's been up since early June.

Assistant director Vanessa Estrada said Koelsch is usually open only by appointment the last two weeks of July. Dealer Franny Koelsch represents more than 20 artists, including some who work in jewelry and ceramics as well as painting and sculpture. She hangs a group show only every two or three years. For "Treat Yourself," she brought out works she already had in stock, all priced to appeal to buyers on limited budgets. Prices start at \$200 for monoprints, but nothing is more than \$1,200.

If that doesn't get people out, nothing will. Except, maybe, the free wine and beer.

[molly.glentzer@chron.com](mailto:molly.glentzer@chron.com)

## Editorial: Recommendations

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### Mark Dell'Isola

Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, Texas

Recommendation by Donna Tennant



Mark Dell'Isola, "Two Circles," 2013, watercolor, acrylic, oil, enamel on canvas.

*Continuing through August 24, 2013*

Mark Dell'Isola shows paintings as hot as the soaring July temperatures outside the gallery. Inspired by the pure colors of the Pacific Ocean and the island of Guam, where Dell'Isola lives and works, his palette is bright and tropical. His large abstract paintings vibrate with intense color and intricate detail, each one obviously requiring months to complete. Dell'Isola mixes media, layering oil and enamel over a base of watercolor and acrylic, which gives his paintings a richness and depth.

Three bodies of work comprise the show: "Refraction," which portrays light bending as it pierces a prism or crystal; "Trench," inspired by the Mariana Trench; and "Circle," which consists of multiple, overlapping circles. In the "Refraction" series, dozens of triangles occupy the picture plane to create the basic structure. To a ground consisting of thousands of dots of color on black, white, and various colors, Dell'Isola adds a skein of frenetic, looping lines and splashes of translucent paint.

The "Trench" of the second series refers to the Mariana Trench located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is the deepest part of the world's oceans, and Guam sits right on top of it. Microbial life forms thrive in this underwater world nearly seven miles deep. In one piece from the series, a dark band studded with Dell'Isola's signature dots and scribbled lines represent the trench. A psychedelic snakelike form occupies the trench, its "arms" branching out in all directions. Surrounding it are the blues and greens of the ocean and pale pinks and yellows that suggest coral or tropical fish.

**Deborah Colton Gallery**