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Heyd Fontenot's La Pieta (Darren and Beatrice), 2010, at Inman Gallery

NOT LASCIVIOUS: The talk of the town swirls around Austin artist Hevd Fontenot's "It's a Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude, Nude World" at Inman Gallery. Heyd's delicate, compelling portrait drawings are rendered in his own inimitable style, with oversized heads that dwarf delicate, smaller bodies and make you forget the subject is sans clother Known for painting his pals, this time and d he takes on the Houston art world, capturing likenesses from artist Katrina Moorhead to his dealers Kerry Inman and Patrick Reynolds. You've got to see this show (through April 2). TEXAS TIME: The hotly collected Angelbert Metover solos at Colton & Farb Gallery, fresh from a well-received exhibition during Art Basel Miami Beach fair week in an independent project space adjoining the Margulies Collection. Word's out Metoyer may reprise some of his recent work from this "Positivism Project" (March 12 – April 30) ... Koelsch Gallery curates a delightful convergence of Texas talents celebrating 175 years since the battle of San Jacinto. The show packs surprises, as gallerist Franny Koelsch rounds up artists from Marfa, Houston, Dallas and points in between, including Camp Bosworth's memorable gun as mini bar and nuanced pencil drawings by Claire Cusack (March 3 - April 23). A FUTURE TOP COLLECTOR: The eagle-eved art prince, aka Lester Marks, and his physician wife Penelope welcomed new arrival Alana Valentina in early February. Marks is already jumpstarting his daughter's collection, which includes a Marlene Dumas watercolor ode to Andy Warhol and a romantic Joseph Cornell sand-tray sculpture. THE 411 ON **4411:** One of Houston's signature gallery destinations, 4411 Montrose, is being saved. Patron and collector Bruce Eames

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ARTNOTES

just acquired the Peter Zweig-designed building and plans to preserve it as an art nexus. Eames, whose day job is as a trading tycoon, told us he purchased 4411 not as a real estate deal, but because of a personal passion for the art community. He plans to keep it as a showcase for galleries, artists' collaborations and innovative visual projects, and is already at work tweaking the contemporary structure, including enhancing landscaping and parking. Eames has tapped Fresh Arts board member Samira Salman as consultant, and the pair recently brought in rising designer David Peck for a fashion project at 4411. Galleries Barbara Davis, Anya Tish, Wade Wilson and Peel stay on. ART CARS AND CANVASES, ANNIVERSARY-RAMA: Kudos to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art for its approaching 30th anniversary. Sign up now for your VIPit tickets to spring's rollicking 24th anniversary Art Car Parade, with the festive parade-side viewing party co-chaired by stalwart OS supporter Don Mafrige Jr. and yours truly. This year, the date deviates from tradition, moving to Sunday, May 22, to welcome thousands of internationals here for the American Association of Museums annual meeting. Devise your costume now for the raucous Art Car Ball on Friday, May 20, at the folk art monument itself. (713.926.6368; orangeshow.org) ... The Rothko Chapel rings in four decades with a galactic anniversary gala chaired by Lynn Wyatt, which honors humanitarian Bianca Jagger on Wednesday, May 18, at the Houston Country Club (tickets, sean@rothkochapel. org). MORE DATES: The Third Biennial Rice/ Menil Lecture Series stars Kara Walker of the striking silhouettes, discoursing about her art on Monday, March 14, at The Menil Collection Fover (free; menil.org) ... Way out West, Marfa Ballroom's innovative new program, "The Reading," features free readings by important rising screenwriters on Saturday, March 26 - this spring honoring Maine native, currently Austinbased Andrew Lanham (ballroommarfa. org). For more Art Notes, visit papercity

mag.com. Catherine D. Anspon

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ON THE WAY UP

Critical art mingling: CAMH's The Studio gets edgy at Colton & Farb

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BY STEVEN THOMSON

oz.12.11 04:42 pm

The creative class convened within the halls of the North Boulevard Colton & Farb Gallery on Wednesday evening for the opening of the exhibition, Mixing the Medium. The wintery mixer was hosted by Contemporary Arts Museum Houston startup art patrons group, The Studio.

The show on view is the curatorial creation of The Studio co-chairs Philip Beck and Philip Berry. Their emphasis is on local artists on the way up --such Colton & Farb-repped talents (many in attendance at the fête) as Katy Anderson and Patrick Medrano, Roberto Del Rio, Paul Horn, Michael Meazell, Angelbert Metoyer and Mary Ann Strandell. Philip² have curated an exhibition that takes a critical eye to pop culture and the study of the subconscious.

"We wanted to find artists that touched on edgier issues that we thought would be culturally relevant to those interested in The Studio group," Berry tells CultureMap. The YHAs (Young Houston Artists) on view relate to The Studio's raison d'être: provide a forum for enhancing art literacy to a diverse audience. "We want to encourage people to get involved in contemporary art, whether through collecting, volunteering or creating on their own terms," Berry says.

Mixing the Medium derives its name from the broad spectrum of materials used by the artists on view.

"Art isn't what it traditionally used to be," Berry says. "In the show you'll see not only painting, but also assemblage, video and sound pieces and works that are digitally fabricated."

Houston's next generation of collectors savored the visual feast while sipping drinks provided by Hudson Ferus Vodka and Republic Tequila. Seen galavanting in the galleries were The Studio steering committee members Caroline Starry LeBlanc, CTRL Gallery maestro Bryan Miller and CultureMap's own Nic Philips.





Photo by Kennon Evett Claudia Solis



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