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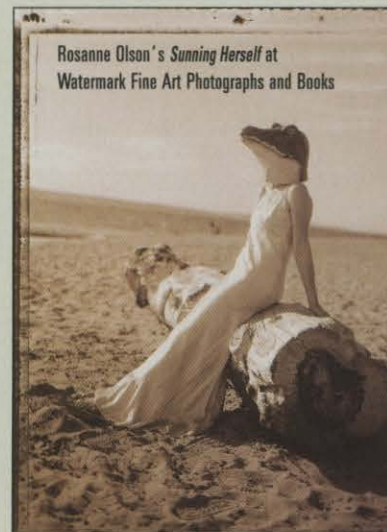
Saturday

If your thirst for cartoon art wasn't satiated by last night's Felici show, head to the Deborah Colton Gallery for "**New Cartoon!**" — a mixed-media show

featuring artists who use cartoons and illustrations to explore the social complexities of our oft-insane American society. The show includes works by Ai Kijima, who uses discarded fabrics to create retro cartoons, iconic illustrations and patterns. Artist collective Paper Rad (Jessica Ciocci, Jacob Ciocci and Benjamin Jones) will exhibit a video work of animation and works on paper. Cory Archangel will showcase hacked-open Nintendo game cartridges. And there's even some kinky cartoon action, with Texas artist Andy Coolquitt's plywood cutout animal figures positioned into freaky sexual encounters, which serve as a tongue-in-cheek commentary on what we deem "proper behavior." Now that's something we just don't get on *The Simpsons*. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 2500 Summer Street, third floor. For information, call 713-864-2364 or visit www.deborahcoltongallery.com. Free.

ArtNotes

It's a stellar start for the year, beginning with contempo blockbusters at the major museums. **Blaffer Gallery** mounts "**Jane and Louise Wilson: Erewhon**" (January 15 – March 6) featuring brooding videos by these British-born twins, who explore the psychological drama of architecture (think abandoned hospitals and defunct mining facilities in New Zealand) ... **Rice Gallery** also steps up to video, bringing to town **Eve Sussman's** *89 Seconds at Alcázar*, a poetic work most recently seen at the Whitney Biennial, based on Velásquez's 17th-century masterpiece *Las Meninas* (January 20 – February 27) ... Contemporary African art is red hot at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, **The Menil Collection** and the **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**. Don't miss **Bodys Kingelez's** sculptures of idealized future cities at the CAMH (January 28 – May 1) or the concurrently running "**African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection**" at the MFAH and **Romuald Hazoumé's** compelling assemblages that warn against all forms of slavery at the Menil (January 29 – May 8) ... Houston painter **David McGee** is in the limelight, both as curator for "Deep Wells and Reflecting Pools" (January 21 – April 17) at the Menil (McGee culls artworks and ephemera from the museum's troves that investigate racial inequality) and artist, featured in the eagerly awaited "**Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970**" (January 22 – April 17), curated by the always insightful **Valerie Cassel Oliver** at CAMH ... Project Row Houses' founder **Rick Lowe** solos at the **Glassell School of Art** (January 20 – March 6) ... Top gallery picks: ever wacky, wondrous **Paul Horn** at **Texas Gallery** (January 18 – February 12), highlighting this cool pop-meister's collages; **Tommy Fitzpatrick's** sublime architectural views at **Inman Gallery** (January 14 – February 19); **Melanie Crader's** fashion-forward minimalism at **Gallery Sonja Roesch** (January 8 – February 26); Seattle-based lenswoman **Rosanne Olson's** witty take on identity issues at **Watermark Fine Art Photographs and Books**, (January 8 – February 5); **Karin Broker's** hypnotic assemblages at **McClain Gallery** (opening January 8); **Randy Twaddle's** exquisite text-based drawings at **Moody Gallery** (January 8 – February 5); and "**New Cartoon!**" at **Deborah Colton Gallery** (January 22 – March 6), including works by **Ultra Violet**, one of the stars of Andy Warhol's Factory ... Resolves for '05: Jump-start your collecting by signing up for **Looking Art**, led by the dynamic **Marshal** and **Victoria Lightman** (she, a Texas Commissioner for the Arts). Receive enlightened tours of galleries, studios, collections and more. Information 713.868.9589; www.lookingatart.com ... See nationally noted, Washington state-based sculptor **Sheila Klein's** *Leopard Sky* unveil at the new Federal Inspection Service building, Bush Intercontinental Airport on Saturday, January 15. Also attend the corresponding exhibitions at Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County's (CACHH) new **Space 125 Gallery**, and at **Rudolph Projects/Artscan Gallery** Thursday, January 13, 6 to 8 pm, celebrating public art at the airport ... More art in unexpected places: Houston artist **Phyllis Flax** at the **Omni Houston Hotel** on Riverway featuring her color-charged abstractions (January 6 – April 1) ... Painter **Wayne Gilbert** is just back from Cuba, exhibiting in a group show at the **Bacardi Museum** in Santiago, with other Texas art stars including **Sharon Kopriva**, **Michael Collins** and **Dan Allison**. Gilbert was recently profiled by *People* magazine ... **Armando Palacios' New World Museum** has taken off. Not only did the MFAH acquire works from his first two exhibitions, but his spring show (slated for March) focuses on **Franco Mondini-Ruiz**, selected by *Artnews* as one of "25 Movers Shakers and Makers" ... Contempo art collides with classical music as **The Art Guys** team up at Jones Hall with the **Houston Symphony**, Saturday, January 15 — Monday, January 17, for "Illuminations on Bluebeard's Castle." Be there! ... **Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens**, one of the most splendid decorative arts museums in America, gets a new director, **Bonnie Campbell** (most recently at Austin's **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**). Previous director **David Warren** retired in December 2003 after 38 amazing years. *Catherine D. Ansporn*



Rosanne Olson's *Sunning Herself* at Watermark Fine Art Photographs and Books