

## Deborah Colton Gallery Spring 2015 Newsletter: Highlights from 2014

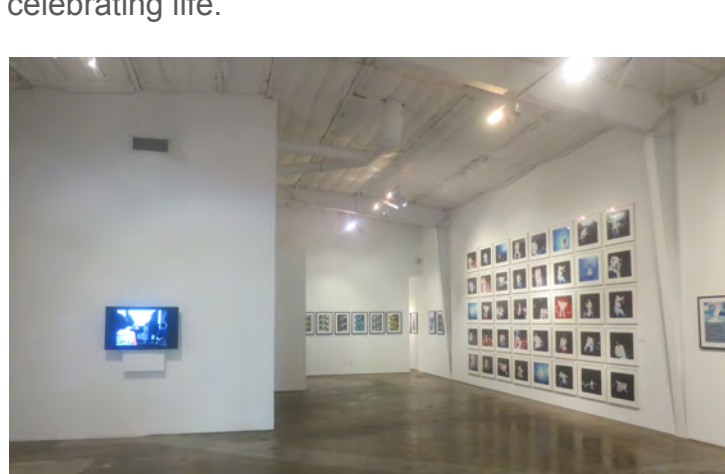
### PROJECTS WITH JONAS MEKAS CONTINUE



Pictured are Deborah M. Colton, Jonas Mekas and Marian Luntz

For Deborah Colton Gallery, 2014 began with a striking exhibition of works and video installations by indie film legend and “godfather of American avant-garde cinema” Jonas Mekas, presented in conjunction with the 2013 Houston Cinema Arts Festival. *LIFE GOES ON... I KEEP SINGING* presented still frame photographs produced from material from Mekas’ films as well installations of three of Mekas’ films, including *World Trade Center*.

Mekas, the founder of Anthology Films in New York, is a 20th century renaissance man: a filmmaker, poet, writer, and artist. Jonas Mekas has captured timeless moments and cherished icons in art history, in American history, in his own life... from filmmakers, Salvador Dali, Kennedy’s, Warhol, Yoko Ono and John Lennon, Elvis Presley, the World Trade Center... to the more personal special moments of nature, his family, being human and celebrating life.



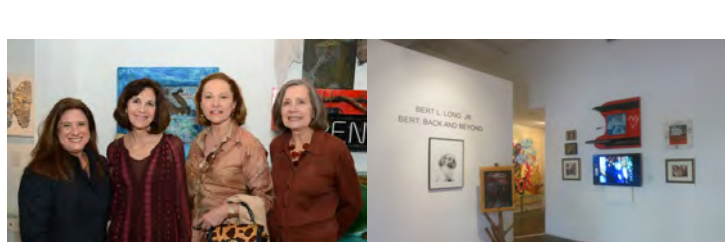
Installation at Deborah Colton Gallery of the 2013 Jonas Mekas exhibition *LIFE GOES ON... I KEEP SINGING*

Excerpts from this exhibition will soon travel to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Eugene, Oregon for *Frozen Film Frames: Portraits of Filmmakers by Jonas Mekas*. A selection of Mekas’ film portraits and diaries will compliment this exhibition of filmmaker portraits. Co-Curated by Deborah M. Colton and Cinema Pacific director Richard Herskowitz, this exhibition is complimented by screenings of Mekas’ films, presented for *Schnitzer Cinema*, the museum’s curated cinema series. This season of *Schnitzer Cinema* is devoted to American experimental media with a special emphasis on the history of American avant-garde film and will include *Jonas Mekas I: Film Portraits*. Next in the series is *Jonas Mekas II: Walden (Part One)*, a special presentation of Mekas’ first diary film, *Walden*, which was edited as a collection of images gathered between the years 1964 and 1969. Its original title was *Diaries, Notes, and Sketches*. The exhibition opens April 1, 2015.

On Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m., Colton and Herskowitz explore his diaries and film portraits including a conversation with Mekas via Skype and screenings of *Scenes from the Life of Andy Warhol* and *Zefiro Torna or Scenes from the Life of George Maciunas*. While at the museum for these events, Deborah Colton will be the guest speaker on April 16th to discuss with students, professors, and curators the exhibition, her work with Mekas, and insights from her experiences as a gallerist and an active art patron.

### An Exhibition and Film Screenings Honor Filmmaker Jonas Mekas at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

### BERT: BACK AND BEYOND – AN EXHIBITION AND FUNDRAISER FOR THE BERT L. LONG, JR. FOUNDATION



Deborah M. Colton, Jereann Chaney, Minnette Boesel and April Gauss; Installation view of *Bert: Back and Beyond* at Deborah Colton Gallery

February 1st, 2014 marked the anniversary of Bert Long’s passing to Beyond. An adored staple of the Houston arts scene, he is fondly remembered and his presence came back in full glory for a joyful celebration of his works and life. The exhibition *Bert: Back and Beyond* honored the esteemed artist and also served as a fundraiser for his book, *Riding the Tiger: The Art and Life of Bert L. Long Jr.* and the founding of the Bert Long Foundation.

“As artists we have the obligation to provide the world with art which communicates as truth. I believe that art has the power to heal our souls of their afflictions. I try to create art which helps to diagnose the prevalent conditions within our societies, hopefully providing an insightfulness which will help us all become brothers and sisters united in equality and compassion”  
- Bert L. Long, Jr.

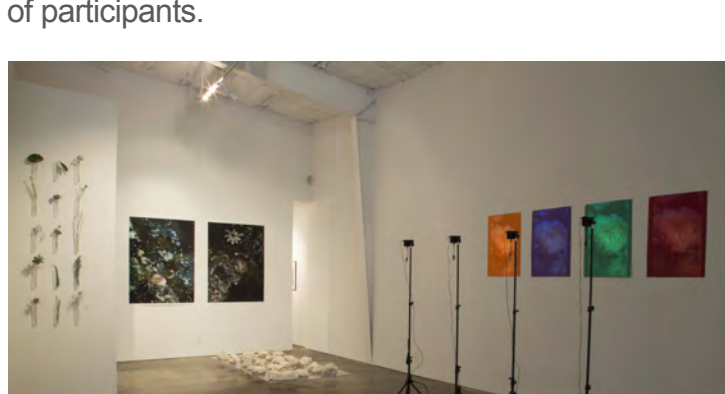
The late Peter Marzio, former Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, said of Bert Long:

“Bert Long does not avert his gaze from that which is painful, but as [his artworks] testify, he also brings a spirit of joy and redemption to his art. We can all learn from this great artist.”

Though the Houston art community suffered a great loss at Long’s passing in February of 2013, his life’s vision and work continue to make a huge impact in the art world of today.

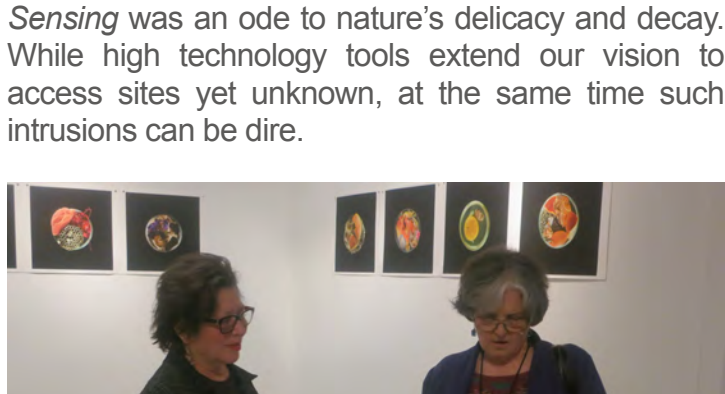
### DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY IN THE 2014 FOTOFEST BIENNIAL

A long time supporter and sponsor of the FOTOFEST International Biennial since 2002, Deborah Colton Gallery was pleased to participate in Houston’s most revered international art festival, which focused in 2014 on Contemporary multi-media works from the Arab World. Fotofest selected Karin von Roques, one of the world’s leading experts on contemporary Arab art, to curate the biennial. Having been involved in the region since 2007, Colton introduced the Fotofest founders to von Roques in 2009 when they began to develop their relationship and created this excellent Biennial which, like all Fotofest Biennials, received attention world-wide and included thousands of participants.



Installation view of *Remote Sensing: Micro-landscapes and Untold Stories*, 2014

As a Fotofest participating space, Deborah Colton Gallery presented *Remote Sensing: Micro-landscapes and Untold Stories*, the second iteration of an exhibition of artworks from the accomplished visual artist, theorist, and educator Suzanne Anker. From microscopic imagery to video animations, time-lapse photography was an ode to nature’s delicacy and decay. While high technology tools extend our vision to access sites yet unknown, at the same time such intrusions can be dire.



*Remonte Sensing* artist Suzanne Anker and the Museum of Fine Art Houston’s curator of photography Anne Wilkes Tucker

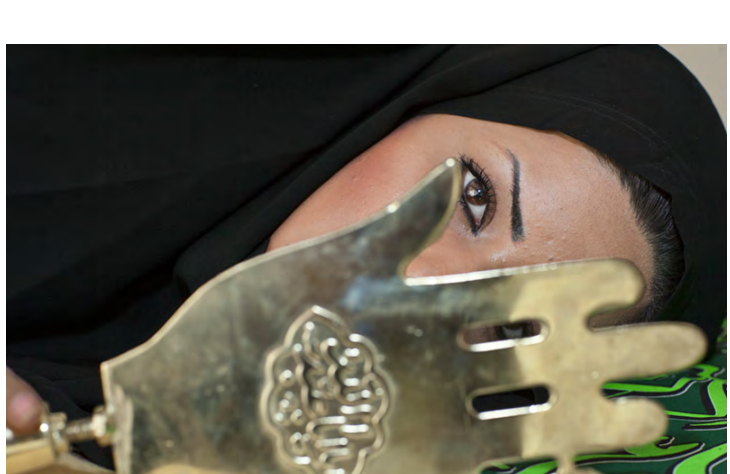
*Remote Sensing: Micro-Landscapes and Untold Stories* brought together underwater motifs of animals that looked like flowers, “vanitas” in Petrie dishes inspired by art history, porcelain sponge sculptures that appeared as coral or meteorites, and high tech 3-D extruded sculptures which reference tiny wondrous landscapes.

Works from *Remote Sensing* were first presented at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary in Dallas, Texas in the exhibition *While Darkness Sleeps*, sponsored by Deborah Colton Gallery. *While Darkness Sleeps* was an ode to nature’s delicacy and decay. As in previous exhibitions Anker continues to explore life/death continuums in various forms.

### Suzanne Anker: While Darkness Sleeps at the MAC

Continuing work at the nexus of art and the biological sciences, this exhibition, in both presentations, brought into focus visions of a “future/natural” in which life’s ebb and flow, always in flux, combined with its synthetic other. In Anker’s work nothing is ever what it appears to be, yet visual representations abound. Although there are many references to the “still life” as a genre in visual art, the moving images addressed the fact that life is not still.

### SOODY SHARIFI AND THE SPACE WITHIN



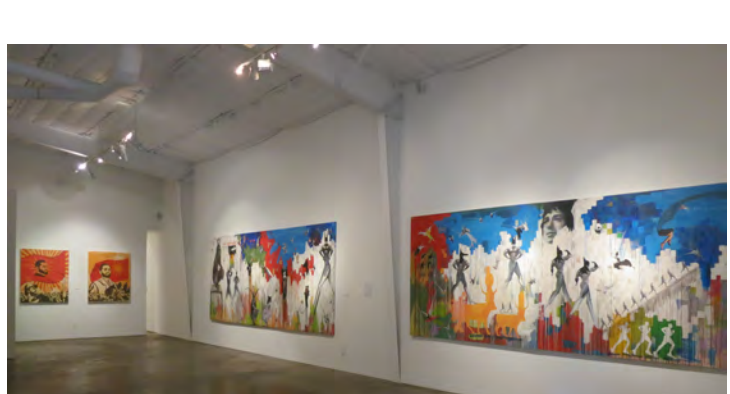
Sooddy Sharifi, *Hand of Fatima*, 2014

Also presented for the 2014 FotoFest Biennial was *The Space Within*, an exhibition of artworks from Iranian-American artist Sooddy Sharifi. *The Space Within*, as fitting the theme of the Biennial, showed a photographic exploration of the expansive and contradictory territory that lies between public identity and the private self through the filter of an Iranian-American experience.

*The Space Within* addressed internal conflict, the condition of being at once a part of and apart from one’s culture. Through a series of self-conscious portraits and fantastic desert tableaux, this exhibition explored the conceptual space where private and public impinge upon one another. Focusing on personal side of things, the portraits presented developed the theme of public and private as one of internal negotiation. Haunted faces hinted at vast inner landscapes, where conflicted men and women struggle to separate who they really are from what they feel compelled to be. Traditional gender expectations loom large, but introspective poses and dreamy gazes clued the viewer not to take the conflation of self-identity and public persona at face value.

Sharifi is a 2011 Jameel Prize nominee and her work has been exhibited world-wide.

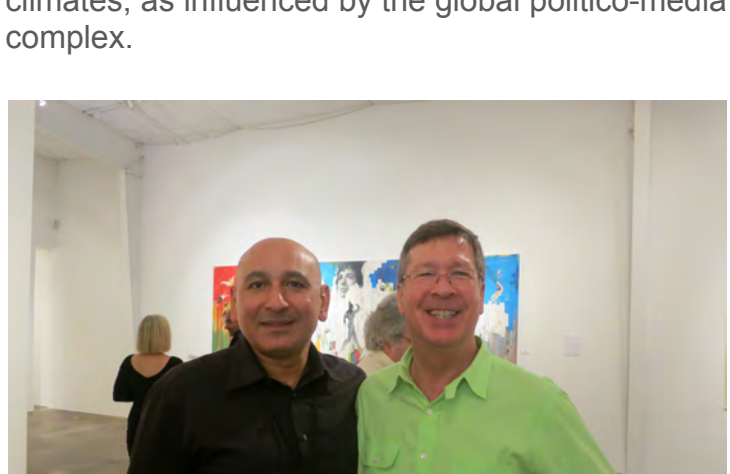
### MAPPING STRIFE: MIDDLE EASTERN VOICES IN HOUSTON



Installation of *Mapping Strife: Perception and Reality* at Deborah Colton Gallery

In continuing its’ mission to share international perspectives and in encouraging interest in contemporary art and artists from the Middle East, Deborah Colton Gallery was proud to present *Mapping Strife: Perception and Reality*, as it’s 2014-2015 season opener. *Mapping Strife* was a provocative conceptual exhibition that introduced to a diverse American audience multimedia artworks from the perspective of three lauded Arab-world artists.

*Mapping Strife*, as indicated by its title, checked the pulse of the charged geopolitical, sociopolitical, and humanitarian crises proximate to the three exhibiting artists, Khaled Hafez (Egypt), Ferhat Özgür (Istanbul), and Mahmoud Obaidi (Iraq), and highlighted the great divide between the public perception and the “reality” of represented social climates, as influenced by the global politico-media complex.



*Mapping Strife* artist Khaled Hafez and William Colton

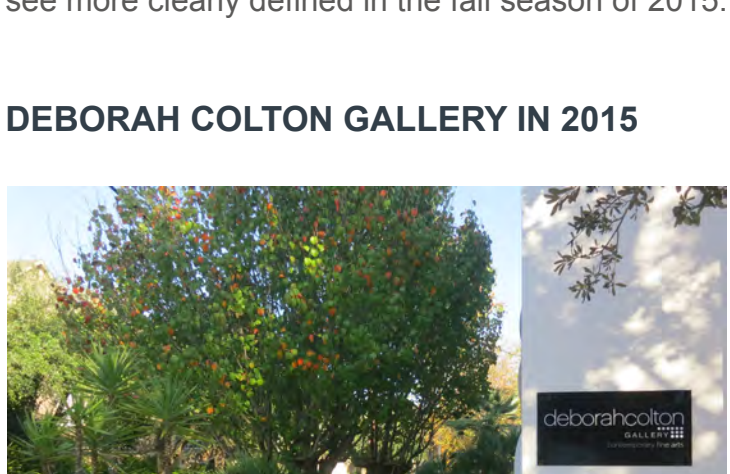
The participating artists, through various conventions of representation, presented works that were unfiltered, if not uninfluenced, by the media-propagated agenda that shapes public awareness and reinforces popular opinion. While their works alluded to the traumatic events that have defined their respective artistic orientations, their artworks ultimately suggest, under the guises of nostalgia, humor or irony, transformation and link the past to the present in a thoroughly contemporary context.

*Mapping Strife* encouraged its audience to consider the indeterminate boundaries of perception and reality as well mass-media influence upon collective consciousness. This exhibition insinuated that, if perception is reality, alternate realities exist... and some are manufactured.

### THE HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR: THE CITY’S FAIR

As a patron of the arts in Houston, Deborah Colton accepted the position of Art Fair Chairperson in order to unite other patrons from various backgrounds to help build this fair to the level we hope it to gain in future years. Both Fairs can serve as vehicles to promote the arts of the city which we will see more clearly defined in the fall season of 2015.

### DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY IN 2015



Exterior view of Deborah Colton Gallery, whose facade reads “WELCOME” in Braille

For over a decade Deborah Colton Gallery has served Houston as an innovative showcase of strong historical and visionary artists from around the world. From painting to sculpture, photography to video, installations to performance art... always a step ahead of the national and international trends.

2015 brings with it an exciting program of exhibitions and events for Deborah Colton Gallery. Expanding its global reach while maintaining dedicated support for its home city, Deborah Colton Gallery will continue to invite award-winning international artists to share artworks with the DCG audience while also presenting works from emerging and established local talent and paying homage to significant artists and events in Houston art history.

Exhibitions this year include solo exhibitions from museum level artists from Mexico, Russia, Japan, Egypt and the United States and will also introduce new talent that we endorse as having the same high potential. Full details on future exhibitions can be found on our website.

phone: 713.869.5151  
www.deborahcoltongallery.com  
2445 North Boulevard Houston, Texas 77098