

ARTS+Culture



THE STATE OF THE ARTS

SEPT 2016

**TRIBUTE: WOMEN ARTISTS OF
THE AFRICAN DIASPORA AT
DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY**

HOUSTON — You won't find any artists who are white or male in the newest exhibition at Deborah Colton Gallery. In conjunction with Community Artists' Collective, a Houston organization dedicated to creating opportunities for African-American artists, the gallery presents *Tribute: Women Artists of the African Diaspora*, Sept. 17-Nov 5. The exhibition features artists including Ann Johnson, Jean Lacy, Annette Lawrence, Delita Pinchback Martin, Sondra Perry, Alison Saar, Kaneem Smith, Renee Stout, Colette Veasey-Cullors and Erika Walker, who work in various media. It promises to be a fascinating array of painting, sculpture, and mixed media.

deborahcoltongallery.com

Alison Saar, *Sea of Nectar*, courtesy Deborah Colton.





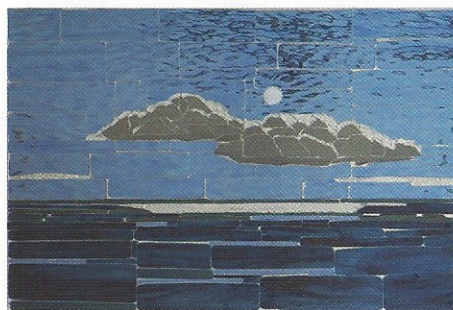
In a new body of work titled "Resilience," **Alfredo Scaroina** moves in a new direction. His latest wall pieces are not paintings on canvas but rather fabric on panel, assembled from thousands of pieces of discarded clothing once worn by children from his homeland, the Dominican Republic. In a trip home, Scaroina was inspired by poor children playing and having fun, regardless of the fact that they have little to eat and few possessions. He spent weeks bartering for the used clothing, sometimes trading them for new clothing or other items. Back in the studio, he wove, tied, and otherwise assembled them into textured pieces that are vibrant and three-dimensional. Scaroina likes the irony in the fact that his new pieces, which reflect the poverty of his country, will be viewed in upscale surroundings and purchased by wealthy patrons. "I want these pieces to have a purpose, a real punch," Scaroina says. "When I look at them, I see those children being happy with what little they have." The artist continues to use experimental techniques and materials to explore the power of art to effect change. The show can be seen at UNIX Gallery from September 9 to October 8, 2016.

"FINDING HAPPINESS," 2016

Alfredo Scaroina

FOUND CHILDREN'S CLOTHES AND FABRICS, BURLAP, STRING, 60"x 44"

PHOTO: COURTESY THE ARTIST AND UNIX GALLERY



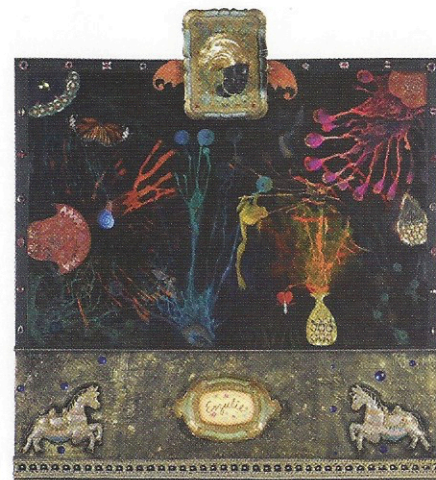
Although **Libbie J Masterson** shows at a photography gallery, she is much more than a photographer. Trained academically in glass, she has created public pieces using the medium, including a major glass installation at Houston's Hobby Airport. In her new series of seven glass panels, titled "Spectrum," Masterson investigates the colors of the spectrum and their relationships with each colors' "aural" associations. Eventually, the series will include music that accompanies the pieces, thanks to a music composition course Masterson took a couple of years ago. The new glass pieces begin as stained glass, which she cuts, shapes and otherwise manipulates before backing it with mirrors, giving them amorphous reflective and translucent qualities. Masterson has always been interested in light and materials that conduct light, which led her to work with fiber optics and lasers in the past. Regarding her photography, she is interested currently in creating photographs with a minimal amount of light, which she calls "ghost prints." Some were created with long night exposures to achieve images with just a hint of light. Masterson is also a painter, and she includes related watercolors in the show as well. The exhibition at Catherine Couturier Gallery runs from September 10 to October 15, 2016.

"MOON," 2016

Libbie J. Masterson

GLASS MOSAIC ON MIRROR, 24"x 36"

PHOTO: COURTESY CATHERINE COUTURIER GALLERY



Deborah Colton Gallery is working with Houston's longtime non-profit, the Community Artists' Collective, on a series of exhibitions of works by women of the African diaspora in celebration of the Collective's 30th anniversary next year. "**Tribute: Women Artists of the African Diaspora**" includes African and African-American artists Ann Johnson, Jean Lacy, Annette Lawrence, Delita Pinchback Martin, Sondra Perry, Alison Saar, Kaneem Smith, Renée Stout, Colette Veasey-Cullors and Erika Walker. These women will be showing paintings, sculpture, works on paper, video, photographs and installation pieces dating from the 1970s to the present. Lawrence first became known to Houstonians through the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Core Program for her compulsively autobiographical work involving counting, body cycles, and other ways to measure daily life. Saar also focuses on the body as a means to reflect on identity, as well as express past injustices; her work references lunar cycles, fertility, and related mythology. Veasey-Cullor uses documentary photography to investigate race, class, education, and identity as well. A portion of the proceeds of the show will benefit the Community Artists' Collective, which has created opportunities for African-American artists through exhibitions, education, entrepreneurship and community-development programs. The show will run from September 17 to November 5, 2016.

"ERZULIE," 2015, **Renée Stout**

ACRYLIC PAINT, RHINESTONES, SOIL, METAL LEAF, FABRIC, SEQUINS, PLASTER HEAD, FOUND OBJECTS, MIXED MEDIA, 53"x 48"x 5"

PHOTO: COURTESY DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY