



ARTNOTES

Maximum Max at Menil: Wrap up '08 with a visit to **The Menil Collection** for "Max Ernst in the Garden of Nymph Ancolie" (through February 15), co-curated by Menil director **Josef Helfenstein**. Houston audiences will be the first to view the restored 1934 mural *Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie*, which once graced a Swiss nightclub, along with seminal Ernst works from that era.



Max Ernst's *Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie*, 1934, at The Menil Collection

Hard-Hitting Iraq, Women Arise, Vatican on Ice:

Credit **Jim Harithas** for addressing the world's hot zones. In "Iraqi Artists in Exile," **Station Museum of Contemporary Art** presents 15 talents whose work comments on the current conflict (through February 1) ... At **DiverseWorks**, former Lawndale director **Mary Ross Taylor**



Bettie Ward's *Girl Holding a Cigarette with Her Toes*, 2005 – 2006, at Koelsch Gallery

curates "Thrive," highlighting artists such as **Toby Topek** and **Joanne Brigham**, who have long upheld the banner of feminism, along with rising talents such as painter **Kelli Vance** (through December 20) ... "Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes" comes to the **National Museum of Funeral History** on long-term display, including an authentic Popemobile (nmfh.org).

Gallery a Go-Go: See 20th-century great **George Segal** (1924 – 2000) at **McClain Gallery** (through January 3), including bronze and plaster figures, as well as drawings, spanning two decades. (Next month, a major Segal show comes to the **Nasher Sculpture Center** in Dallas) ... The erotic, humorous embroideries of San Antonio artist **Bettie Ward** at **Koelsch Gallery** are occasionally 'R' rated (December 6 – January 3) ... **Deborah Colton Gallery** (new digs, 2445 North Boulevard) pairs Texan-French Alliance for the Arts prize winner **Daniel-Kayne Edwards** (see page 24) with Guam-based **Mark Dell'Isola**, whose monumental abstracts painted on remote Pacific islands channel the cosmos — *Starry Night for the 21st century* (through January 3) ... Speaking of faraway lands, **Booker-Lowe Gallery** mounts linocuts and etchings by indigenous Australian artists in "True North" (through January 23).

Good Gifting: The holiday shop-a-thon at **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston** on Thursday, December 4, includes **Wendy Wagner's** endearing soft sculptures, aka Qwerkys ... Opening Saturday, December 6, are **Darke Gallery's** Holiday Boutique and **Goldsberry Gallery's** Jewelry and Metal Art Invitational (through January 9). And don't miss **Houston Studio Glass'** wildly popular Holiday Open House on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7.

Kudos and Congrats: Pioneering lensman and FotoFest chairman **Fred Baldwin's** work documenting the Civil Rights movement is the subject of "Freedom's March," a major retrospective at Savannah, Georgia's **Telfair Museum** (through January 11). The companion volume documents a time and a place in America that remains extremely relevant today (don't miss the images of Dr. King) ... Texas man of granite **Jesus Moroles** has received the highest art honor: a National Medal of Arts. Rockport-based Moroles has sculpted granite monoliths from Houston to Beijing, and joins such greats as Agnes Martin and Louise Nevelson in receiving this accolade ... Internationally known, Houston Fifth Ward-based **Bert Long Jr.'s** epic "Art/Life" canvas now resides at the **Houston Public Library Looscan Neighborhood Library** in River Oaks, funded by the City of Houston's percent-for-art program, managed by Houston Arts Alliance ... Light and sound installationists **Jeff Shore** and **Jon Fisher** (repped by **McClain Gallery**) have taken over the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art** in Kansas City, Missouri (through January 11) ... Three hometown heroines are participating in **Sculpture for New Orleans**, a project that places public sculpture throughout the Crescent City for a two-year period: **Sharon Kopriva's** haunting *Resurrection*, **Tara Conley's** gargantuan bronze bunny and **Michelle O'Michael's** 18' steel spiral ... **Wade Wilson**-represented painter **Joseph Marioni** opens the **McNay Museum** in San Antonio's new Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibition, designed by French architect **Jean-Paul Viguier**. Marioni, whose luminescent monochromes ally him with the Concrete movement, is the first living American artist to solo in the museum's new wing (through January 18) ... Grande dame **Jane Blaffer Owen** received a prestigious **National Trust for Historic Preservation** honor, the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award, for revitalizing New Harmony, Indiana.

Music of the Spheres: **Wade Wilson Art's** Impulse Art Series sets piano recitals against the translucent paintings of Brit-born **Lucinda Cobley** Monday through Friday, December 8 through 12 (impulsetartistseries.org) ... Savor **Ars Lyrica's** doubleheader: **Handel's Messiah** at University of Houston's Moores School of Music on Sunday, December 7, followed by the New Year's Eve *Bachanalia* at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts (arslyricahouston.org). *Catherine D. Ansporn*

TOP TEN

1 ALLEY THEATRE'S 'THE SANTALAND DIARIES'

Based on NPR humorist David Sedaris' own riotous run-ins while working as "Crumpet the Elf" in Macy's Santaland display, this cheeky comedy delivers just the right amount of seasonal sarcasm. **Dec. 2-28**, consult website for schedule. *Tickets \$30. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave., 713.220.5700, alleytheatre.org*

2 THE 'ART BOX' AT BERING AND JAMES

Last year, more than 200 local artists nabbed unfinished wooden boxes from the gallery, polished up the planks and then sold off the fine-art final products. Talk about a transformation! Look for beautified boxes from more than 300 local artists this time around. **Dec. 5-31. Bering & James, 805 Rhode Pl., 713.524.0101, beringandjames.com**

3 MIRROR BALL

The shimmer of disco and the '70s invades this seasonal soiree—an annual "anti-gala" that celebrates the arts and thrills with wacky costumes and a top-notch art auction. **Dec. 5, 7PM. Tickets \$125. David Adickes' studio, 2500 Summer St., 713.850.0939, glasstire.com and fresharts.org**

4 HOUSTON BALLET'S 'JUBILEE OF DANCE'

For one night only you can sneak a peek at works-in-progress and snippets from some of the Ballet's most beloved productions, like Stanton Welch's *Swan Lake* and *Divergence*. **Dec. 5, 7:30PM. Tickets \$55. Wortham Theater Center, Brown Theater, 501 Texas Ave., 713.227.2787, houstonballet.org**

5 KERMIT OLIVER AT HOOKS-EPSTEIN

For more than a quarter century, this longtime Texas artist created designs for French fashion house Hermès' signature scarves. Oliver's classically beautiful paintings and drawings stem from his rural Texas childhood and his study of religion and mythology. **Dec. 6-Jan. 10. Hooks-Epstein Galleries, 2631 Colquitt St., 713.522.0718, hooksepsteingalleries.com**

6 DACAMERA'S 'VISIONS DE L' AMEN'

This masterful piano cycle by Olivier Messiaen was premiered by the composer and his future wife during the Nazi-occupation in Paris. Today, Marilyn Nonken and DaCamera artistic director Sarah Rothenberg team up to recreate the piece. **Dec. 9, 7:30PM. Tickets \$25. The Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross St., 713.524.5050, dacamera.com**

7 ALLISON HUNTER AT THE LAURA U COLLECTION

Allison Hunter signs copies of her book of essays and art, *Recent Animals*. See more on Laura U in The Loop Now. **Dec. 10, 5:30PM. The Laura U Collection, 1840 Westheimer Rd., 713.522.0855, laurau.com**

8 BLACK TIES AND BIG HEARTS CHARITY BALL

Ring in the New Year with dinner, dancing and a silent auction. **Dec. 31, 8PM. Tickets \$275. Hotel ZaZa, 5701 Main St., 713.526.1991, houstonblacktie.org**

9 MARK DELLISOLA AND DANIEL KAYNE EDWARDS

Paintings and mixed-media works from these two artists are interpretations of female and male energy. **Through Jan. 3. Deborah Colton Gallery, 2500 Summer St., 713.869.5151, deborahcoltongallery.com**



10 BOB SCHNEIDER AT HOUSE OF BLUES

This Austin native's dishing out a handful of preview performances while he puts the finishing touches on his upcoming record, *Introducing Bob Schneider*. The new album will no doubt feature Schneider's signature blend of rock, funk, folk and rap. **Dec. 26, 8PM. Tickets \$19. House of Blues, 1204 Caroline St., 888.40.BLUES, ticketmaster.com**

THE GALLERY

By Margaret Miller

DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY

address 2500 summer st, houston, tx 77007 | phone 713.869.5151 | website deborahcoltongallery.com | hours tues. – sat. 10:30am to 5pm



mission statement

DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY IS FOUNDED ON BEING AN INNOVATIVE SHOWCASE FOR ONGOING PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION OF STRONG HISTORICAL AND VISIONARY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS WORLDWIDE, WHOSE DIVERSE PRACTICES INCLUDE PAINTING, WORKS ON PAPER, SCULPTURE, VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND CONCEPTUAL AND FUTURE MEDIA INSTALLATIONS. THE GALLERY ASPIRES TO PROVIDE A FORUM

THROUGH CONNECTING TEXAS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE.

DEBORAH COLTON ON DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY

Located in the Upper Kirby – Museum District, **Deborah Colton Gallery** is well known for pushing the limits of contemporary art in Houston, introducing the city to the most current, forward work being done internationally. In the past 28 years, Deborah and her husband Bill have lived in Houston, New York/New Jersey, Miami, Dallas, Tokyo and Bangkok. They have two daughters.

My life and work as an Art Patron started during the eight years I lived in Tokyo and Bangkok, where I worked with a group of Contemporary artists who introduced me to others in Europe and New York. After moving back to Houston in 2000 and making the decision to open a gallery, I determined that the vision of the gallery should be fully international since this was my personal background, rather than just focusing on Asia or being a local gallery representing mainly Texas artists. **I WANTED TO BRING SOMETHING TO HOUSTON THAT HAD NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE** and to enhance the art community rather than to compete with any of the spaces already here.

This September, we moved the gallery to the Upper Kirby – Museum District since we were uncertain about the future of our building on 2500 Summer Street. Molly Gochman believed in the vision of our gallery and kindly offered her exceptional gallery space for lease. Its large, multiple room format is ideal for our installation, video and experiential programming, as well as display areas for two-dimensional works. The new gallery also has access to an AstroTurf patio outside and a performance space next door. Visual artists today are doing a lot of interactive work so that the audience essentially becomes part of the art. In experiential art you're not necessarily sure what will take place. It's very exciting. That's the most forward movement in the international art world today.

My formal education is business-based—I have a BS degree in marketing management with a minor in psychology. My first career was in the 3M Business Communications Products Division as a Sales Supervisor of the Houston branch.

When we moved back to the New York area, I was involved in launching high tech products for the company, work that's not unlike helping artists achieve their short- and long-term goals in the international art world. My background in high tech international communications systems is probably one of the reasons we show a great many scientific-based artists, a group that takes the use of digital technology and contemporary art to the highest level.

We represent local, regional and international artists. Many have received Rockefeller and Guggenheim Awards, have shown in the Whitney and are collected by some of the finest collectors internationally. Many have participated in such events like the Venice Biennale and have had solo exhibitions in astute museums in Europe, the States and Asia. We also represent younger emerging artists whom we believe have great potential, a few of whom are from Texas.

We also work with collectors and curators and art institutions from all over the world. For example, we just did an exhibition on contemporary artists from the Arab world of The State of Qatar and are working very closely with the institutions there. We've always worked closely with many countries in Asia. The gentleman we've hired for our OUTPOST: NY DCG (in New York) is a well-known curator and writer from Europe. We're also planning a significant Latin American Exhibition soon. We're truly a virtual international gallery with the main exhibition spaces in Houston.

The gallery is open to all, whether they're educated contemporary art collectors or art lovers who want to begin experiencing and learning about international contemporary art. **OUR PATRONS RANGE FROM THE HIGHEST REGARDED COLLECTORS AND MUSEUMS TO PEOPLE THAT KNOW NOTHING ABOUT CONTEMPORARY ART BUT ARE CURIOUS AND READY TO LEARN.** It's a wonderful experience for us to open the world of contemporary art up to new people. We treat every one with respect when they walk into our gallery. It's like an epiphany for them to see the world through this new set of eyes.