

SUMMER SHOWS RULE THE DAY! by Todd Camplin

Summer is where group shows rule the day. Often times you will see a mixture of artists in the gallery's stable. Instead of browsing their website, you can see some of this work live. One example is Erin Cluley Gallery's show. When I visited this week I found that she had the majority of her artists hanging in the gallery. Some galleries have a slightly more focused group show, like Barry Whistler Gallery's works on paper show. The theme of course is paper. Though I enjoyed this show a great deal, I would bet their exhibition of photos of dogs by William Wegman would be a huge draw. Holly Johnson Gallery has taken a bit different take on the group show. She has a show that features artists with significant accomplishments over the past few years.



Holly Johnson Gallery: IT'S OFFICIAL: Texas State Artists 2015 & 2016, Dornith Doherty, Dario Robleto, Margo Sawyer, and Vincent Valdez

Last summer, Dornith Doherty was appointed an official 2-D state artist of Texas, and in 2012 she was a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow. I have seen her show across the state and she is scheduled to have a show at an important art museum in Texas soon. Doherty shows with three other artists with some impressive resumes in their own right. Dario Robleto, Margo Sawyer, and Vincent Valdez were also selected recently as official artists of Texas. Those that live in Houston should know Sawyer's work. Her outdoor sculpture, Synchronicity of Color Red/Blue, has been the talk of the town since it was installed. I

enjoyed her piece Synchronicity of Color in the show. Simple rectangles and pleasant colors make for minimalist fun.

Conduit Gallery's group show is a student show of a few BFA and MFA students and graduates. Curation by Stephen Laphisophon of his students and former students is how the show was developed. I thought there was a great deal of experimenting and playing with the idea of drawing and mark making. Also there were some traditional approaches to drawing that I found satisfying. Cor Fahringer's burnt tree limb piece was powerful. It reminded me of charcoal sticks, because some of the burnt material created lines from the install process. I was also impressed with Mason Bryant's pile of information from an audio file. I enjoyed this physical representation of digital information.

Two diverse group shows that hit you with a glut of work are RO2's Chaos show and Craighead Green Gallery's New Texas Talent show. Both bring some fresh work to the masses and enough to write about for their own articles. Both shows end at the beginning of September.

Holly Johnson Gallery and Barry Whistler Gallery close this weekend on the 13th of August. Conduit closes their show, Paper Weight on August 20th. Erin Cluley Gallery closes their summer show on August 27th. I know I have mentioned them before, but it is worth mentioning again that Mary Tomás Gallery will also have their stable of artists up for the summer.



Conduit Gallery: Spencer Evans, Untitled (My Dear Series) Barry Whistler Gallery: Michael Miller, Por Vida Left, 2006