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Christen Wilson on What to Do in Dallas During Art Week

By Kevin McGarry



The Dallas-based art collector Christen Wilson with work by Aaron Curry. Credit Derek Wilson

Tonight, the [Dallas Art Fair](#) previews its seventh edition at the Fashion Industry Gallery in Downtown's Arts District, drawing close to 100 galleries to a city more commonly associated with 10-gallon hats than bohemian berets. Few Dallasites are busier this week than collector Christen Wilson. In addition to chairing Dallas's Nasher Sculpture Center's program committee and sitting on similar councils for the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and London's Tate museum, she and her husband Derek regularly open their museum-like Highland Park home to visitors and local art lovers alike. Last night, they hosted a reception for the Dallas Museum of Art, amid collection highlights from Sterling Ruby to Donald Judd and Eddie Peake on view. Here, Wilson shares her favorite spots around town — for Art Week or anytime.

Photo



Left: the Mansion on Turtle Creek Bar. Right: lunch and housewares at Grange Hall. Credit Clockwise from left: Courtesy of Rosewood Hotels & Resorts; Shayna Fontana (2)

http://tmagazine.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/09/christen-wilson-dallas-art-fair-travel-guide/?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

EAT/DRINK

Mansion on Turtle Creek Bar: the quintessential Dallas watering hole

“This is an *icon*, and many Dallas peeps would disagree with me because their parents used to hang out here or still do. But when I first moved here from Los Angeles, I felt like I was sitting in an episode of the ‘Dallas’ TV show with J.R. There is a perfect air of nostalgia, even though it has been redone. Jerry Jones, the owner of Dallas Cowboys, and old-school Dallas society hang out here — plus, you throw in the out-of-towners staying in the hotel with the best martini in town and you have yourself the new ‘Dallas’ TV show. Make sure you visit the terrace if the bar isn’t busy enough, because sometimes the action is all outside on a nice evening.”

2821 Turtle Creek Boulevard, rosewoodhotels.com

Grange Hall: boutique lunch

“Grange Hall, the boutique, is a mix of Paris, London, India and Texas that’s somehow unique unto itself, with design and curation by Rajan Patel and Jeffrey Lee. They have just opened a lunch-only restaurant in their boutique, which has truly the best food and ambience I have seen — not just in Dallas; it could hold its own anywhere. The store is a mix of Parisian candles, high-end jewelry, books, home furnishing and a full floral boutique.”

4445 Travis Street, Suite 101, ufgrangehall.com

Tei An Soba House: ideally-located Japanese

“Tei An is in One Arts Plaza, near all the museums. This quiet sushi/soba noodle/Japanese restaurant is lead by chef-owner Teiichi Sakurai and is run by the elegant Yosuke Fukuda. The staff and Zen-like bar make it a must for either a quick meal or a long dinner. Make sure you order the white seaweed salad to start, and then go crazy with soba noodles and sushi.”

1722 Routh Street, #110, tei-an.com

The Round-Up Saloon and Dance Hall: a gay bar, with Stetsons

“When Chanel had their Paris-Dallas runway show in Dallas, we all headed to the Round-Up Saloon after ... where I giggled with my friend Michel Gaubert as we watched cute cowboys doing the two-step on a circular dance floor that resembles a skating rink. Best to go after a late dinner — or they do have a ‘Howdy Hour’ on the weekends.”

3912 Cedar Springs Road, roundupsaloon.com

The Grapevine Bar: the late-night standby

“When all else fails, there is the Grapevine. An old, stay-true-to-its-roots, dark after-hours bar. You can play pool, or basketball outside, or get into some serious conversations with strangers. There is a jukebox to play your favorite song, from Elvis to Slayer. You throw it all to the wind when you walk in this place ... don’t say I didn’t warn you. Last time I was there, I got into a basketball game in my Dior heels and left at 3 a.m.”

3902 Maple Avenue, grapevinebar.com



Clockwise from left: inside the Nasher Sculpture Center; the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium is the epitome of Texas excess; a biker on the Katy Trail. Credit Clockwise from left: Tim Hursley; Larry W. Smith/European Pressphoto Agency; Charlie Riedel/Associated Press

DO

Nasher Sculpture Center: the heart of Dallas art

“As you know, Dallas has a thriving art scene. There are so many great places to visit, from museums to galleries to private foundations; I could go on and on. But the best of the best, for me, is the Renzo Piano-designed Nasher Sculpture Center. You can walk the galleries inside and then stroll outside through the sculpture garden. Have lunch at the Nasher Cafe by Wolfgang Puck, where you can sit outside on a nice day.”

2001 Flora Street, nashersculpturecenter.org

AT&T Stadium: home of the Cowboys, and a Dallas institution

“I’m going to be honest, I couldn’t care less about sports. But when someone says, ‘Hey, Christen, I have a seat’ — or even better, a suite — I will go here. The Cowboys Stadium is filled with amazing contemporary art, which is shockingly good. And the food and drinks are as big as the two HD LED video displays that hang from the dome, which are 160 feet wide and 72 feet tall — the largest in the world, which lends support to the saying that everything is big in Texas.”

1 AT&T Way, Arlington, attstadium.com

The Katy Trail: a scenic place for an outdoor workout

“The Katy Trail is the old Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad track that used to make a stop off Knox Street; my mother-in-law has told me stories of boarding the train there when she was little. It is now a very well landscaped walking/biking trail that runs from Highland Park to Downtown. You can get to many restaurants off the trail — or you can just run as fast as you can, right by them.”

Runs from Airline Road to North Houston Street, katytraildallas.org

Photo



At left, luxury goods at Forty Five Ten. At right, the Alexander McQueen and Hermès storefronts at Highland Park Village. Credit Clockwise from left: Erich Schlegel for The New York Times; Peter Calvin

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SHOP

Forty Five Ten: a luxury go-to, with a café

“Rosie Assoulin, Vika Gazinskaya, Comme des Garçons, Dior, Givenchy, Lanvin: they have all the best designers, new and established, plus jewelry, handbags, shoes and makeup. It’s also the best boutique in town for men, plus a fantastic lunch spot. A must-visit in Dallas.”

4510 McKinney Avenue, fortyfiveten.com

Vintage Martini: second acts for designer goodies

“This vintage clothing store recently opened in the Knox McKinney area, and I have never gone in there and not left with something — Oscar, Dior, Chanel, Valentino, plus really cool unique pieces with no labels. The costume jewelry and handbags are great also. Another plus, there is a men’s side. It is clean and organized, and everyone who works there has a smile on their face.”

2923 North Henderson Avenue, Suite A, vintagemartini.com

Highland Park Village: a pioneer in open-air shopping

“Highland Park Village is the first outdoor shopping mall ever built in America. This is a place where real shoppers can cruise — Chanel, Dior, Hermès, Balenciaga, Saint Laurent, Harry Winston and the list goes on — plus, some of the best restaurants, like Mi Cocina, Bistro 31 and Cafe Pacific, and a plush historical movie theater built in 1931.”

47 Highland Park Village, hpvillage.com