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Art Notes: Spring has sprung at Dallas art galleries, plus April is nuts!

By: Michael Granberry



Dallas art galleries have developed their own cool way of celebrating the space between winter and summer. The opening day of baseball season, which — finally! — returns next Sunday, is reason enough to welcome the lyrical three months known as spring. But Dallas galleries figure out a way to usher in spring their own way every year, like a pitcher discovering a new wrinkle in a hanging slider.

Friday marks the debut of a new show at Sun to Moon Gallery, which proves that, even for a venue celebrating the best in black and white, spring yields itself to great photography. Its “Spring x 12” exhibition continues through May 7. It boasts what gallery official Marilyn Miller calls “a wide range of photographic styles and interpretations.”

It features “40 fine photographic prints” by 12 “contemporary” American photographers, including Alan Ross and John Sexton, the late Ansel Adams’ last two photographic assistants. In addition to black and white, the show features color prints as well.

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Photographs Do Not Bend, otherwise known as PDNB Gallery, also proves that a venue excelling in black and white can extol the virtues of spring. Its “Next Chapter: 154 Glass Street” — the gallery recently moved from Dragon Street to a Design District space farther north — is up through April 23.

It’s a group exhibition featuring a kind of Who’s Who of PDNB alumni. They include Keith Carter, Elliott Erwitt, William Greiner, Barbara Maples, Delilah Montoya and Bill Owens, whose black and white image appears with this column.

PDNB has moved near Riverfront, across the street from the Dallas Contemporary museum. Other galleries in the neighborhood include Cris Worley Fine Arts, the Holly Johnson Gallery, Circuit 12 Contemporary, the new nonprofit Site 131 and Sun to Moon.

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The Goss-Michael Foundation will convene the 2016 version of MTV Re:Define on April 8 at the Dallas Contemporary, whose lavish space should allow for plenty of artwork, not to mention being a great party site.

It’s the fifth year for MTV Re:Define, whose proceeds will benefit both the MTV Staying Alive Foundation and the Dallas Contemporary. The sponsors describe the foundation as “a global HIV prevention and awareness charity that is 100 percent donor funded.” This year’s artwork is created by, among others, such notables as Damien Hirst, Rob Pruitt and Bruce Weber.

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The Crow Collection of Asian Art opens a new show this weekend. “Protecting Wisdom: Tibetan Book Covers From the MacLean Collection” opens Saturday and continues through Aug. 14.

It’s described as “the first major exhibition dedicated to Tibetan book covers” in the U.S. For Tibetan Buddhists, Crow officials say, “books are a divine presence in which the B reveals himself, and they are venerated and handled with the utmost respect.” The show covers the 1,000-year history of such artifacts.

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The great Sedrick Huckaby joins the list of those opening a new show this coming weekend. His “Three Forbidden F Words: Faith, Family, and Fathers” runs through May

7 at Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden. The outdoor garden alone is worth a visit to Valley House in spring. Huckaby will deliver an artist talk on April 23.

Before that — much is happening in the Dallas art world these days — Valley House will be among the venues showcased at the **Dallas Art Fair**, April 15-17.

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The Gallery at the University of Texas at Arlington will host a “casual closing reception” on Wednesday for “Whew ... That’s a Relief!” Its show celebrates “the madcap world of John Hernandez, 1978-2015” and features almost 40 years of work by the San Antonio artist.

The exhibition features 70 “brightly colored, cartoon-like images depicting quirky characters and vignettes.” All display the playfulness of Hernandez, whose work is shaped by what gallery officials call his “slightly twisted, dark sense of humor,” which indeed defines most of Hernandez’s work.

The gallery is on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building, FA169, at 502 S. Cooper in Arlington.

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As if that isn’t enough for April, the Dallas Art Dealers Association will stage its annual spring gallery walk from noon to 8 p.m. on April 23.

The walk will feature more than 30 art spaces scattered throughout the Dallas area. Best of all, the one-day event is free. And then on May 7, DADA will announce its 2016 scholarship awards, which go to students from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where Nasher Prize recipient Doris Salcedo will deliver an address on Friday.

DADA’s prize is funded by the Edith Baker Art Scholarship, the Craighead Green Fund for the Arts and patrons, adding up to an award of \$8,500.

Scholarships are given to Booker T. students pursuing education in the visual arts and includes a gallery internship. A special exhibition of works related to the award will be on view from 7 to 9 p.m. April 25 at One Arts Plaza on Routh Street. The award reception and presentation will take place between 7 and 9 p.m. May 7.

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