

# GuideLIVE

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## Art Notes: Where creative people come from makes a difference in art

By Michael Granberry



Houston-based artist Joseph Havel attended 11 schools before graduating from the second of two high schools. His *Dust (on everything)*, 2014, is made of polyurethane and mixed media. Joseph Havel, *Dust (on everything)*, 2014, polyurethane and mixed media, 24 x 14 x 15 inches, courtesy of the artist and Talley Dunn Gallery

For me, where artists come from is a source of endless intrigue. Rick Lowe, who fills the newly created position of artist-in-residence at the Nasher Sculpture Center, grew up in rural Alabama, working alongside his single mom and 11 siblings as a sharecropper.

Houston-based artist Joseph Havel spent his childhood in the chilly reaches of Minnesota and Illinois, attending 11 schools before graduating from the second of two high schools.

“There are probably ways where I don’t know how it affected me emotionally,” he once told me in an interview. “But if one can get used to having to rely on oneself and figure out the world and each new move, to always be the new kid ... I understand that I was very, very quiet.”

The world may be the better for it.

The subject of a new show at Talley Dunn Gallery, Havel routinely creates introspective, thought-provoking art in cast bronze, cast polyurethane resin and found objects.

He created in cast bronze the dramatic sculpture just inside the main entry of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. He created the cast bronze Curtain outside the entrance to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

He heads up a talented group of artists now populating shows in area galleries.

David Collins, excelling in monotypes and paintings, has opened a new show at Valley House Gallery. It closes April 19.

Collins grew up in Dallas, graduating from Jesuit High School in 1984. He earned a bachelor's degree from Rhode Island School of Design in 1988 and now lives in New York City.

Collins grew up on a street not far from Valley House. His parents were friends of the gallery's founders, Peggy and Donald Vogel. His parents were also collectors.

Among Collins' earliest influences were the Paris School painters shown at Valley House. He also has a family history in aviation and radio technology, which influenced his interest in geometric forms and planes of vivid color.

Bill Haveron, who on Saturday closed a show at Kirk Hopper Fine Art in Deep Ellum, hails from Bryan, in the heart of Aggieland, where as a kid, he felt like the poster boy for alienation and fear.

"I could never identify," he once told me. "I always had the feeling, 'There's sumpn' wrong with you, boy.' At some point, you realize, 'I've been chosen for this life for a reason. If the costume fits, wear it.'"

Kirk Hopper Fine Art is now ushering out the old, brining in the new. Just as its group show with Haveron, Alejandro Diaz-Ayala, Chubirka, Martin Delabano and Mandy Lyn Perez ends its impressive run, it opens a new one on Saturday.

It features Frank Rodick, "Faces, Flesh and Other Hallucinations") and Jay Rusovich ("Selected Works").

500X Gallery opens a new show Saturday night, featuring Elaine Pawlowicz ("Warped"), John Alexander ("Graffiti and Resonance"), and Elizabeth Hurtado ("Portal II"). You can find 500X on Exposition Avenue near Fair Park.

It's that time again. The Dallas Art Fair opens April 11, with its preview gala the night before.

That coincides with the Nasher opening a new exhibition by Bettina Pousttchi on April 12.

As part of the Dallas Biennial, McKinney Avenue Contemporary opens a new show March 15. It's Cauleen Smith's "Space Station Infinity." She describes the work as a "roving research capsule."

Smith's roots can be found in Riverside, Calif., where she began her journey as an artist whose experimental works address the African-American identity.

Her mentors include the activist Angela Davis.



David Collins grew up in Dallas. The New York artist's Unbound, 2014, is at Valley House, not far from where he grew up. David Collins, Unbound, 2014, acrylic on linen, 48 x 48 inches, courtesy of Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden.