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TWO MINUTES with **Marty Walker** of Marty Walker Gallery

Dallas Business Journal - by Nima Kapadia Staff writer

Marty Walker, owner of the **Marty Walker Gallery** in Dallas, has been immersed in the art world her whole life. Her father was a sculptor, and in 1996, Walker received a travel grant from the Dallas Museum of Art to spend a summer in Europe. Walker visited art fairs, museums and galleries in Europe while doing studio work in Prague. The trip inspired Walker, who began her career as an independent artist before working in graphic design at i2 Technologies and Moving Pictures Editorial. In 2006, she opened Marty Walker Gallery, which exhibits art by mid-career and emerging artists, many of whom have a Texas background. Walker focuses on the inventive use of video, photography, sculpture and paintings. Walker is a founding member of the Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas and a member of Artnet. Walker was interviewed by staff writer Nima Kapadia.



Walker, - Michael Samples, photo

Q. How would you describe the art scene in Dallas?

A. The difference is night and day compared to what it was 10 years ago. In 1996, Dallas had perhaps five or six serious contemporary galleries; now there are 13 Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas member galleries. The surge in the number of art fairs worldwide and media coverage have increased the public's appetite for contemporary art. The inaugural Dallas Art Fair was a huge success, and I believe the fair's organizers are on track for another in 2010. Dallas patrons are beginning to understand that in order to have a thriving art scene, it has to be supported.

Q. How do you go about finding the artists you will display?

A. Oftentimes it's done through art fairs, dealers in other cities and word of mouth. Marty Walker Gallery exhibits work by more than 40 artists. Our current exhibition running until June 6 showcases the work of Jay Shinn and Rupert Deese, titled "Spatial Shifts."

Q. What challenges are you currently facing?

A. They include long-term planning and dealing with an erratic sales cycle. There is also the challenge of maintaining a gallery that continually exhibits intellectually stimulating work. The business in its current form would not be possible without my extraordinary gallery director Billy Zinser. Both of us wear many hats — installer, curator, writer, sales, etc. — and juggle an enormous amount of tasks daily to keep it all moving forward. The biggest challenge is keeping goals on track, since we are continually pulled in many directions at any given time.