

MODERNLUXURY
MAGAZINES

December 2006, page 94

**THE RADAR ART:
Canvas the 'hood, Four fresh newcomers energize the urban gallery scene**

Author: Steve Carter



Unlike some major art destinations which feature centralized gallery districts, New York and Santa Fe immediately come to mind, the Dallas scene is somewhat spread out. Although concentrations of galleries in the Design District and Uptown are established and recognized, the vast sprawl of the city provides ample opportunities for aspiring gallerists and patrons to keep it in the neighborhood, closer to home. At the moment, however, downtown and its immediate environs are enjoying something of an artistic renaissance as the new crop of diverse galleries enter the fray, each addressing one of the city's greatest artistic secrets: An adventurous eclecticism borne of a spirit to confound and dispel stereotyped preconceptions of what Dallas is. Recently, nouveau gallerists Marty Walker, George D. Sellers, Christina Rees, and Paul Slocum found time in their overtly-taut schedules to share their thoughts on the scene at large, and their newfound places in it.

MARTY WALKER GALLERY, 2135 Farrington St, 214-749-0066, situated in the Photography District of the city, (an adjunct region to the Design District that's often overlooked as a distinct area), is the namesake of up-and-comer owner/director Marty Walker, a painter and graphic artist who gained invaluable experience working at Conduit Gallery in the 90's. Having opened her own doors in March of 2006, her roster of mainly mid-career artists and "some incredible emerging artists," as she characterizes them, has already grown to 14. Her assessment of the city's current artistic climate is a positive one, to say the least. "The art scene here is not what it was 10 years ago – I mean, the momentum right now is incredible," she enthuses. "Seriously, compared to other cities, the contemporary art scene here is l the top 10 in the country. It's actually a really exciting time to be a gallerist." Anxious to open her own space, Walker took the plunge after several artists were ready to commit to joining the gallery. Her Farrington Street location, which wasn't finished out when she found it, offered unlimited possibilities; she was able to create the floor plan exactly as she wanted it, and five artist studios in the back of the building were already in the works. With a spacious Main Gallery and cozily dimensioned "The Other Gallery" to accommodate two concurrent exhibitions, Walker's been clear from the outset about her mission. "I knew that my gallery would be one concerned with critical discourse, issues in contemporary art, work being relevant, those sorts of things." NOW SHOWING: A group show exploring the physicality of paint, featuring artists Zane Lewis, Quintin Gonzalez, Angela Kallus and Nick Gaetano through Jan. 5.

Marty Walker Gallery,. Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment.
www.martywalkergallery.com. Free.