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(notes on culture)



BY ELAINE WOLFF

A third sequential Artifacts column on **FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA**?! Maybe we're just making up for the fact that we don't print the entire calendar all month as we do for CAM (they've never asked), or maybe it's just that this year it's looking like an **extra-special BFD**, aided by **Blue Star**, which under Bill FitzGibbons's tutelage has learned to put on a BFD. For Fotofest '08 that means a ribbon-cutting, **sake-barrel-smashing** ceremony to celebrate the opening of **Counter-Photography: Japan's Artists Today**, 6 p.m. Thursday, September 4, at the gallery at 114 Blue Star. County Judge Nelson Wolff will present a cultural proclamation (as will the mayor's office), and no less than two county commissioners (one of whom, Lyle Larson, is a Republican congressional candidate) and one **Consul-General of Japan** will be in attendance. Potter-Belmar Labs' **Leslie Raymond** will also be showing at Blue Star, with a series of video-loop landscapes.

Among the exhibits FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA Director Michael Mehl is most excited about is **Chocolate**, from master of the themes **David Rubin**, at the **San Antonio Museum of Art**, which includes work by **Vik Muniz** and SA favorite Chuck Ramirez. Get details and the full schedule at fotoseptiembreusa.com; watch for reviews starting next week.

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