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LOOK & LISTEN: 'Fotografiar' exhibit features landscapes

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Wednesday, 03 September 2008



Courtesy
Photos of San Pedro Park highlight artist Juan Garcia's specialty: landscaping photography.

ARTIST: Juan I. Garcia, 35

MEDIUM: Digital photography

BEST KNOWN FOR: Landscape photography, which he has been photographing for 10 years. Garcia usually treks out to the Hill Country, where he can't hear honking cars on the highways or ringing cell phones, to capture his photographs with his Nikon D80. "It's all about being out in nature," Garcia said. "I find it relaxing. Those are the best moments in life, just waiting." Garcia is a self-described technical person, so he likes to think about the angles of the sun, when the clouds will be in the best spot and which camera settings to use when he's out shooting. Garcia said he spends more time than he probably should calculating shutter speeds and other camera settings for his photographs. "I'm waiting for what (the scene) could actually be," Garcia said. "Essentially, it's just trying to capture the moment."

PAYING THE BILLS: Garcia has worked in information technology for Alamo Architects for 15 years. He also does graphic design work for the company.

SPACE: About a year ago, Garcia acquired his own studio space, a three-story loft in the Blue Star Arts Complex. Garcia also lives there and only shows on the first two levels, so he's often shuffling his personal belongings and artworks around the loft before and after First Fridays.

Garcia has been showing works at the loft for seven months, and usually sticks to artists and photographers who are starting out and looking to gain experience. His goal is to help more local, amateur people start out in the San Antonio art scene without having to go through the difficult process of finding a space or being interviewed by gallery owners. "I have a ton of creative, artistic friends," Garcia said. "It's a great opportunity for them. There's no pressure."

CURRENTLY: Garcia will feature seven landscape photographs in "Fotografiar," which is coordinated by Marianna Urrutia. Garcia and five other photographers from San Antonio and Houston will have their photographs on display at Loft Studio 121 Blue Star, No. 5, Thursday, Sept. 4-Sept. 25. The opening reception will be 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4. The gallery will be open 5:30-10:30 p.m. for First Friday on Friday, Sept. 5. Regular viewing hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and by appointment.

For more information, call Garcia at (210) 787-8492 or loft121number5.com.

Emily Messer | 210SA contributor

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