



Fotoseptiembre - Art - September 2008



Frontpage

Written by Ben Schooley
September 03, 2008

The entire Hill Country area, including Boerne, has one of the most successful and thriving art communities in the state. From independent artists, to large exhibition galleries, the area has something for everyone. Every September, local galleries are blessed with some international exposure as the FOTOSEPTIEMBRE event, founded by San Antonio artist Michael Mehl, makes its presence known locally.

The month long event, founded in 1996, has grown from a modest 12 exhibitions to more than 60 exhibits and 250 artists. Exhibitions take place throughout the San Antonio area, as well as New Braunfels, Kerrville, Boerne, and others. Mehl describes the inspiration for the event, "In 1986 I moved to San Antonio (from Mexico City) and started a photo business here and began to exhibit my work. But I soon noticed there was no context within which photo artists could exhibit their work and gain more visibility. In Mexico there was already a successful festival in September called Fotoseptiembre. So that gave me the idea. If you provide a forum and context for something, there's more of an impact. Fotoseptiembre USA has helped develop a market for photography here."

As you might imagine, the event focuses on photography. Mehl describes, "The notion of art photography, however, has many interpretations. The best way to define it is to think of photographers who decide to pursue a body of work because they have a personal interest in the matter — as opposed to commissioned commercial work — and then produce a series of images that together become a personal form of expression. It doesn't matter whether they are photographing landscapes, the human figure or whatever, as long as they are compelled to create those images from this individual perspective. Most art forms derive from an inner source, and it's no different with photography. To qualify for the festival a submission must be a coherent body of photobased work, though other media could be involved. We seek out artists whose work is eclectic and fresh, showing a commitment to craft and vision." Locally, the event listing is one of the most comprehensive and impressive in recent memory. From the Dodging Duck, to the upper-end Bella Creo, it offers something for everyone:

The Dodging Duck Brewhaus

"Inland Surfers" by Erich Schlegel

Staff photographer for the Dallas Morning News

"This is an ongoing personal project. Texas is full of surfers, like myself, who, for whatever reason, be it

school, family, or job, are landlocked, miles from the beach. I came up with the idea when I visited my neighbor

Jerry Liles here on Lake Travis. When I saw his little "Surf Shop" workshop, my mind started spinning with other

possibilities. The Central Texas chapter of Surfrider Foundation was a great help getting me started on finding



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subjects. Some are longtime friends, some found through word of mouth, some I just ran into on assignments.

As surfers, it's funny how all these people from such different backgrounds and ages are exactly the same when

it comes to their passion for surfing. It is amazing to me that the thread weaves its way through all the corners of

this huge and varied state.”

Bear Moon Bakery & Café

“Crazy Quilts” by Julie Johnson

September 13-October 4

Julie’s photos are made up of a variety of image components that are colored, stretched, enhanced, twisted, and

spun, to create a series of patterns and forms in which the original is no longer recognizable. The effect is a very

painterly abstraction that transforms traditional photography into a completely different art form.

Bella Creo

“Boerne Icons” by Charles & Tami Kegley

September 13-October 4

“Boerne Icons” is an exhibition of abstracted images featuring people and places in and around Boerne. Each

has a quality that affects the nature and character of this signature hill country community. Accompanying the

photo essay will be a collection of paintings that pull their visual content from the photos carrying the creative

narrative to a new place.

COSAS: Chiapas photographer Cicso Dietz

As featured on cover of FotoSeptiembre Guide

September 1-30

Gente de Chiapas, a new series of Cisco Dietz photographic images featuring the sights and people of the Chiapas region in rural Mexico, will highlight the FotoSeptiembre celebration at COSAS Gallery in Boerne.

Cibolo Arts Council: Cibolo Nature Center

Photography

Contest Winners from the CNC’s 20th Birthday

Photo Contest

September 13-26

This year, the CAC is pleased to feature entries from the Cibolo Nature Center’s 20th Birthday Photography

Contest. All photos were taken at the CNC park,

showcasing work in the following categories: Wildlife,

Natural Landscape, Cultural Landscape and Youth

View. The opening reception is Saturday, September 13,

from 5:30-7:30 pm. The exhibit will continue through



September 26th, with viewing hours from 9 am-5 pm.

Carriage House Gallery

"Two Views" by Larry Woods and John Lewis

September 13-27

Local gallery welcomes Larry Woods and John

Lewis' photographic exhibition titled "Two Views".

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