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As part of First Friday in Southtown, the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center is unveiling a blockbuster exhibit for Fotoseptiembre USA, "Counter-Photography — Japan's Artists Today."

Organized by the Blue Star in conjunction with the Consulate-General of Japan in Houston, the exhibit features the work of 11 Japanese artists, including Miho Akioka, Miyuki Ichikawa, Kazuo Katase, Hiroko Noue, Chie Yasuda and Tomoko Yoneda. The exhibit is curated by Yuri Mitsuda of the Shoto Museum of Art in Japan.

Also new at the Blue Star, Leslie Raymond, who teaches New Media at UTSA, will have a new series of "Landscapes" in Gallery 4. While concerned with the traditional issues of landscape painting, such as composition, color, shape and form, Raymond will be showing nine video loop compositions on flat-panel monitors.

And Patrick Zeller will present a photo essay about Iran, based on his 2006 motorcycle journey, in the Blue Star's Project Space.

Other First Friday happenings:

Sala Diaz: San Antonio sculptor Jesse Amado, who's been living in New York for the past few years, has a new show, "Fringe, Coils, a Demon and Small Political Allegory," inspired by recent events. The opening reception is set for 7-11 tonight.

UTSA Satellite Space: In "Figure and Illusions," Kenda North takes images of figures moving through fields of water in her "Water and Weight" series, while Susan Kae Grant uses models and props to re-create dream imagery in her "Night Journey" series.

StoneMetal Press: Polychromatic prints by Deborah Keller-Rihn, Kathleen Baker Pittman, Jim Kane, Steve Carter and Tim Summa are featured in "Foto Ink."

Stella Haus Art Space: Allusive waterscapes by Jim Keller and stolen glimpses of back alleys of Burma, Cambodia and Algeria by Doyle Avant are featured in "Before and After Water."

Cactus Bra Space: Large-scale paintings on paper by Cornelia White Swann make up "Somewhere Between Piety and Desire."

San Angel Folk Art: Self-taught artist Scooter of the Tenderloin is showing new works inspired by his move from San Francisco to Brooklyn.

REM Gallery: Tessa Martinez is showing new photographs in "Recherché."

SAY Sí: High school students have created photo-based assemblages for "Readymade Redux."

El Sol Studios: Rafael C. Llera has created a photo-diary of his work as an emergency responder on Sept. 11, 2001, during the World Trade Center disaster recovery.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cornelia White Swann's paintings are on display at Cactus Bra Space.

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- Blue Star Contemporary Art Center
- FOTOSEPTIEMBRE Online Gallery

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