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Patricia Ruiz-Healy: 'Crazy about art' Web Posted: 09/17/2009 9:35 CDT

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Patricia Ruiz-Healy is the sophisticated, art history-savvy businesswoman behind Ruiz-Healy Art Studio. The studio is a project she started about four years ago and has already established a respectable inventory, including works from Fernando Botero, Leonel Maciel and Ray Smith.

Ruiz-Healy used her more than 20 years of collecting art to her advantage. Throughout those years she forged relationships with Latin American artists and opened her studio with one goal in mind, "to bring awareness of Latin American art."

It also doesn't hurt that Ruiz-Healy has received the formal education needed to advance in the studio art business. She's earned a master's degree in Art History from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in Latin American Studies with a concentration in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin.

As a native of Sonora, Mexico, Ruiz-Healy always had a passion for Latin American artworks and hopes that will appeal to a culture such as San Antonio's. She said that with the shows she curates at her personal studio or at other art galleries, she tries "to expose (the community) to different, undiscovered artists."

Ruiz-Healy is working in conjunction with FOTOSEPTIEMBRE for the current show, "Photographic Encounters: Humanity in Nature," on view at the International Center until Sept. 30, which features the works of six Latin American artists, including works from UTSA art specialist and curator Arturo Almeida. The show, curated by New York art critic and scholar Graciela Kartofel, features an eclectic array of artists with nature being the unifying theme.

Ruiz-Healy's passion to bring art awareness to South Texas has taken her to arts fairs from the McNay's annual Print Fair to Arte Américas, the Latin American Art Fair. It's a model she developed early in her career that has brought in a lot of e-commerce through the Web sites www.ruizhealyart.com and www.artnet.com.

"My goal is to cover the whole state once I finish the Ph.D. program," Ruiz-Healy said.

With her curated shows (and the work she collects), viewers can find a mix of emerging artists to masters. This is something she hopes will inspire young, emerging artists not to feel as if their work will never be featured in art shows. When she's looking for art, she prefers "traditional paintings with a twist." She tries "to look for new languages in artwork."

"I'm just crazy about any type of art," Ruiz-Healy said.

Patricia Ruiz-Healy en breve

Who is she: Ruiz-Healy wears many hats, including owner/curator of Ruiz-Healy Art Studio, art collector and Ph.D. student.

What she enjoys: Although she enjoys all forms of art, Ruiz-Healy is partial to self-portraits. She said: "Faces are what artists know the best."

What's in her future: Her immediate goal is to finish work to obtain her Ph.D. She later wants to extend her business to gain presence throughout Texas, and she also hopes to open a small studio space in New York City.

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