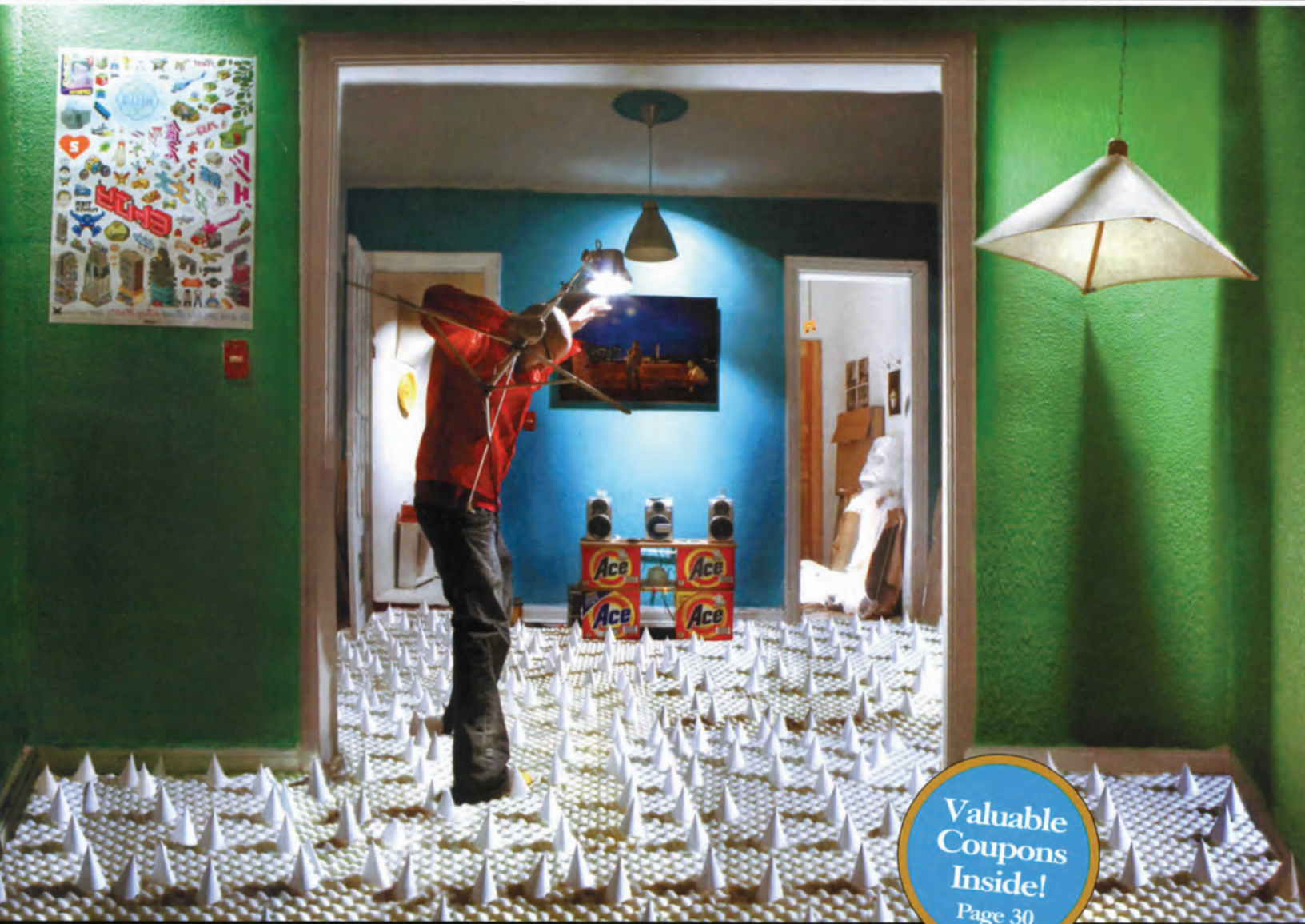


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Feature story



FOTOSEPTIEMBRE

Dining



TASTE OF RIVER WALK

Beyond S.A.

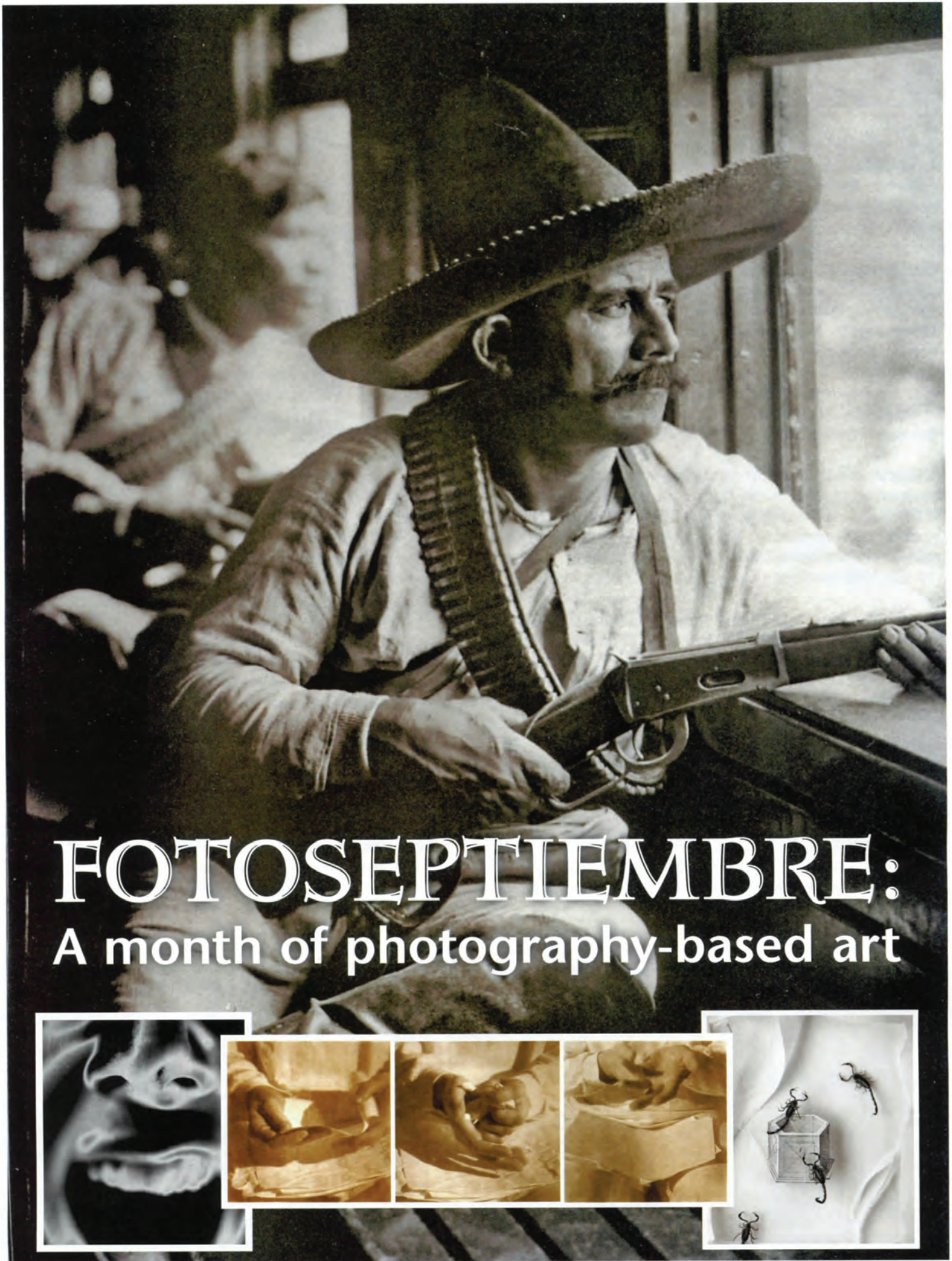


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Keyword: Fiesta



FOTOSEPTIEMBRE:

A month of photography-based art



Facing page (main photo): "Mexico – Beyond the Revolution!" by Agustín Victor Casasola (1874-1938). Inset left and center: "Asylum," Rebecca Dietz. Inset far right: "Ordered Kingdoms," Carra Garza. Above left: "Oyeme Con Los Ojos," Josephine Sacabo. Above right: "Tophophilia West," Jason Reed.

By Jeanette McNamee

The works of approximately 200 area, national and international photographers will be on display during FotoSeptiembre USA, which runs Sept. 1-30 at some 50 venues throughout San Antonio and the Hill Country.

The free festival is "a community-based, eclectic celebration of photography and photography-based art," says Michael Mehl, director of FotoSeptiembre.

"For 16 years, the festival has fostered a growing interest in the photographic arts in South Texas, with established and mid-career artists showcasing their talents alongside a growing number of photographic artists and enthusiasts," says Mehl. "The growth reflects a deep interest in photography both as an art form and as a means of personal and cultural expression."

Subject matter ranges from historical images of the Mexican Revolution to Texas landscapes and portraits, as well as contemporary, digitally manipulated and non-traditional photography that reflects a wide range of photographic interests and techniques.

Venues include the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, Instituto Cultural de México, San Antonio Museum of Art, Southwest School of Art and Craft, Witte Museum, galleries at San Antonio universities and colleges, and numerous independent galleries throughout San Antonio. Galleries in Austin, Boerne, Bulverde, Fredericksburg and Kerrville also will take part in the festival.

Photographer Al Rendon's "Retratos – Portraits of My Latino Community," is about "people that make San Antonio unique," he says. The exhibit will be on display Sept. 7-Oct. 5 at St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive. An opening reception will be 6-8 p.m. Sept. 9.

"I wanted to show a cross-section or representation of people in my local community in Southtown and San Antonio that I interact with and who I believe have a strong influence on the arts in San Antonio," says Rendon. A photographer for over 30 years, his gallery, Rendon Photography and Fine Art, is located in Southtown.

Portraits in "Retratos" include San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro; Ricardo Romo, president of the University of Texas at San Antonio; husband and wife flamenco artists Willie and Teresa Champion; and San Antonio-born actor Jesse Borrego.

Texas' heritage is represented in "Diverse Cultures/One Land," a permanent site-specific photographic installation for the Land Heritage Institute, which is located on 1,200 acres overlooking the Medina River south of San Antonio. Nancy Cavender-Garcia is lead photographer for the project that also includes works by Jennifer Martin, Whitney Smith and Robert Garcia.

The exhibit will illustrate the diverse cultures of people associated with this land. Large images printed on aluminum will hang outside behind the Presnell Watson house at the Land

See FOTOSEPTIEMBRE / page 10

Fall is a busy time for the arts in San Antonio with options ranging from visual arts to performing arts. Following is a sampling:

River Walk Museum Reach: Public art installations are spread along the River Walk expansion extending from Lexington Street to Josephine Street. Projects include artist Donald Lipski's "F.I.S.H.," 7-foot-long fiberglass sunfish "swimming" from cables under the Interstate 35 overpass near the San Antonio Museum of Art; and concrete artist Carlos Cortes' "Grotto" at Camden and Newell Streets.

McNay Art Museum: "Landscapes from the Age of Impressionism," Oct. 6-Jan. 16. 6000 N. New Braunfels Ave. (210) 824-5368. www.mcnayart.org.

San Antonio Museum of Art: "No Escape: Photographs of the Brothers Montiel Kling," Sept. 4-Feb. 13; "Tierra, Libertad y no Re-Eleccion!," Sept. 4-Feb. 13; "To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from the Brooklyn Museum," Oct. 16-Jan. 9. 200 W. Jones. (210) 978-8100. www.samuseum.org.

Witte Museum: "1910: A Revolution Across Borders," opening Sept. 19. 3801 Broadway. (210) 357-1900. www.witemuseum.org.

PERFORMING ARTS

Magik Theatre: Aimed at young audiences and their families, the theater brings children's books to life. "Petit Rouge," Oct. 6-Nov. 6; a Cajun version of "Little Red Riding Hood." 420 S. Alamo. (210) 227-2751. www.magiktheatre.org.

Jump-Start Performance Co.: "I Will Remember You," Sept. 16-26; a bilingual production depicting a Mexican-American woman's experiences surrounding her mother's dementia and memory loss. 108 Blue Star. (210) 227-5867. www.jump-start.org.

Cameo Theatre: 1131 E. Commerce. (210) 212-5454. www.cameocenter.com.

Josephine Theatre: 339 W. Josephine. (210) 734-4646. www.josephinetheatre.org.

Majestic Theatre: "The Jersey Boys," September; "Beauty and the Beast," October. 208 E. Houston. (210) 226-5700. www.majesticempire.com.

San Pedro Playhouse: "A Chorus Line," Sept. 17-Oct. 17. 800 W. Ashby. (210) 733-7258. www.sanpedroplayhouse.com.

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE / from page 9

Heritage Institute and also will be viewable from the public Chaparral Trail that runs from the Medina River Natural Area and through the LHI property.

"In essence, this project is made up of portraits of cultures," says Cavender-Garcia, who teaches photography at Southwest School of Art and Craft. "This property is a microcosm of Texas culture dating back to the beginnings of people in Texas."

"What happens to this land in the future will determine whether or not future Texans have the opportunity to learn about its history," she says. "We as artists wanted to show that history and allow those who view the work the opportunity to see that heritage and realize that they, too, are linked to the land and the cultures that have come before them."

An opening reception for the exhibit will be 4-6 p.m. Sept. 19. For information, contact Penelope Boyer at penelope.boyer@gmail.com.

The connection between nature and people also is shown in "Trace Elements," which includes works by six regional photographers: Jessica Mallios, Victor Pagona, Jason Reed, Libby Rowe, Kent Rush and Jason Urban. It will be on exhibit Sept. 10-Oct. 27 at San Antonio College's Visual Arts Gallery, 950 Lewis St. An opening reception will be 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 20.

"While their media range from digital to collotype (early photo-etching processes), each artist's work documents the continual struggle between nature and urban society as is evident in our modern landscape," says Rebecca Dietz, assistant professor of photography at SAC who is curating the exhibit. "Even as urban development seeks to rise above the primitive land and to control nature for our safety and convenience, it is forced to reintroduce elements of nature back into the new

environment."

"The works in this exhibition collectively, if from different angles, seem to measure, ponder and comment



Above: "Diverse Cultures/One Land," Nancy Cavender-Garcia, Robert Garcia, Jennifer Martin, Whitney Smith.

Right: "Halfway Child," Josefina Niggli.

Below: "Retratos - Portraits of My Latino Community," Al Rendon.



on our need to instill nature, even in minute quantities, into our own environment for our own survival," she adds.

Included in "Trace Elements" are photographs from Jason Reed's series,

"Topophilia West." One of the most eye-catching photos in the series is "American Flag Sunset," a colorful mural covering the side of a building in Fort Stockton in far West Texas.

"This mural caught my attention both because it was in a public space along the main street and because it plays on both the myth and reality of the West in such an intriguing and purposeful way," says Reed. "All of the animals and topographical features we associate with this region are present in one scene, along with a jackalope for good measure. But I was most excited by the sunset and how it infuses the stars and stripes of the American Flag and the real, but mythically valued eagle and cougar."

Reed grew up in West Texas and is currently assistant professor of photography at Texas State University in San Marcos.

The broad range of FotoSeptiembre's subjects and photographic techniques is demonstrated by Rebecca Dietz, who also will show her own work.

"Asylum" will be on exhibit at La Casa Rosa Art Studio, 527 E. Dewey Place. An opening reception will be 6-10 p.m. Sept. 10, and the exhibit can be seen through Sept. 30.

The exhibit "Asylum" is comprised of two series: "Asylum," featuring images of hands continually crumpling and tearing paper; and "Oracles," including large, distorted faces representing oracles.

"Asylum is both shelter and madhouse," says Dietz. "It is a place for freedom of expression but also a place one is sent to when they have lost all reason. The works in this exhibit explore this duality of asylum and its place in the creative process."

As Dietz describes the festival, FotoSeptiembre is a "huge, visual conversation on all the types of photography that are in use today, from different processes, ideas, subjects, even different countries."

For more a full schedule of FotoSeptiembre exhibits, go to www.fotoseptiembreusa.com.

A number of ways
to celebrate

Diez y Seis



BY LAURA STELLA REYES

As fall begins to show its colors, the city will add its own flare to the atmosphere. There will be bold colored banners, flags, streamers and more decorating Downtown Market Square and other areas, as the city honors its neighbor's 200th anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain. This month, various groups and organizations will host special events and exhibits throughout the city.

Mexico's 1810 independence has influenced the culture and people of Mexico, and those close to the border in Texas. It is easily apparent from everyday things, like language, food, music and art. See, hear and learn more about Mexico's influences during the monthlong festivities.

The San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) presents Fernando & Gerardo Montiel Klint's "No Escape: Photographs of the Brothers Montiel Klint." The brothers of Mexico City have produced large scale photographs of staged scenarios, depicting each brother's interpretation of today's worlds. SAMA will also host "Tierra, Libertad Y No Re-Eleccion" by Hugo Brehme. This special collection from

See DIEZ Y SEIS / page 14



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This work, by artists Fernando and Gerardo Montiel Klint of Mexico City, is part of the monthlong FotoSeptiembre photography festival, one of the man.



DIEZ Y SEIS / from page 11

the museum's permanent collection features prints from Mexico's most poignant times. The opening receptions for both exhibits will be Friday, Sept. 3 from 6-8 p.m. The exhibits will continue through Feb. 13. For hours and information, visit www.samuseum.org.

The Instituto Cultural de Mexico will present Josephine Sacabo's "Oyeme Con Los Ojos," Saturday, Sept. 4, from 4-8 p.m. Sacabo's series was inspired by the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a 17th Century Mexican cloistered nun, who earned fame in the Americas for her poetry and works. The exhibit will run through Oct. 24. The Instituto is located at 600 HemisFair Park. For full exhibit info, visit www.saculturamexico.org.

The exhibits are part of this year's FOTOSEPTIEMBRE, the annual international photography festival dedicated to supporting the vast styles of photographic arts. There will be numerous exhibits at local galleries, museums, community centers and businesses. Exhibition sites can be found at www.fotoseptiembreusa.com.

The city has teamed up with

LULAC members to host a weekend of remembrance celebration, Sept. 11-12 and 16 at Market Square. The days will include a street parade with marching bands and decorative floats, a gala, and festivals, featuring live music and dance performances. Hear the cries of Mariachis, the taps of ballet folklórico dancers and taste the warm, rich flavors of Mexican food.

On Wednesday, Sept. 15, the city's official bicentennial celebration of Mexico's Independence will be marked with "El Grito." The Consul General of Mexico will join the city in celebration as the shouts of victory and independence fill the Municipal Auditorium. The program will include special performances from Azucena la de Jalisco, Ballet Folklorico de la Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Mariachi Sangre Mexicana and singer Tamara Rodriguez. Admission is free. Arrive early, the show begins at 6:30 p.m. and the auditorium fills up fast.

Diez y Seis (16th of September) has become widely celebrated and honored across the country. All of these local events are great ways to learn a bit more about Mexico's culture, people and history.

Streetcar route points of interest

RED ROUTE

7:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
(Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m.)

HemisFair Park
La Villita
The Alamo
San Antonio Visitor Center
Convention Center
Market Square
Rivercenter mall

YELLOW ROUTE

7 a.m.-12:30 a.m.
(Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Ellis Alley Park & Ride
Sunset Station
Alamodome
Rivercenter mall
Convention Center
UTSA
Institute of Texas Cultures
Market Square

BLUE ROUTE

7 a.m.-9 p.m.
(Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.)

King William
Blue Star Arts Complex
Convention Center
The Alamo
Municipal Auditorium
Central Library
Southtown
HemisFair Park
La Villita
Rivercenter mall
San Antonio Visitor Center



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