

Taiwanese artists at center of photo fest

By Elda Silva

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"Self-Portrait" (1970) by Taiwanese photographer/artist Chang Chaotang, is part of the 2011 Fotoseptiembre exhibit. COURTESY MICHAEL MEHL

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This year, Fotoseptiembre USA has a distinct Asian flavor.

The international photography festival organized by [Michael Mehl](#) and [Ann Kinser](#), which officially starts today, is partnering with the city and the [Taipei Cultural Center](#) in New York to present a host of exhibits by Taiwanese artists for the Year of Taiwan, a cultural exchange between San Antonio and sister city Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Mehl curated all but one of those exhibits with shows at [Instituto de México](#), which open Saturday, and a show at the City of [San Antonio International Center](#) opening Wednesday.

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“My approach is to provide a more comprehensive overview of what photography is about in Taiwan,” Mehl said. “So in the case of Chang Chaotang, who is at the International Center and the Instituto, he is a national

treasure in Taiwan. He has been awarded two of the most important national art prizes, the only photographer to ever have that happen.

“So we have him as the elder statesman of photography in Taiwan, and then we have Cheng-Chang Wu, who is a mid-career artist; his work is much more experimental. And then we have Isa Ho — her Chinese name is Meng-Chuan Ho — and she's kind of a younger, hip photographic artist.”

“Animal Instinct: The Photographs of Daniel Lee,” an exhibit of images of human-animal hybrids by Daniel Lee at the San Antonio Museum of Art, which opens Friday, rounds out the Taiwan exhibits.

Here are some additional highlights:

Laura McPhee, “**River of No Return**,” an exhibit of monumental photographs of Idaho's Sawtooth Valley, Thursday through Nov. 20, Russell Hill Rogers Gallery, Navarro Campus, Southwest School of Art, 300 Augusta. 210-224-1848.

Chuck Ramirez, “**Minimally Baroque**,” an exhibit of images including large-scale photographic portraits by the artist who died last year, Thursday through Nov. 5, Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, 116 Blue Star, 210-227-6960.

Harry Burg, “**Given to Oblivion**,” an exhibit of images that seeks beauty in the mundane, Thursday through Oct. 17, Rendon Photography & Fine Art, 733 S. Alamo St., 210-288-4900.

Elise Boularan, **Nathalie Daoust**, **Dita Kubin**, **Malin Vulcano**, “**LookShe**,” images by four female artists looking at themselves as women, Saturday through Oct. 24, Instituto Cultural de México, 210-227-0123.

For a complete schedule, go to www.safotofestival.com.

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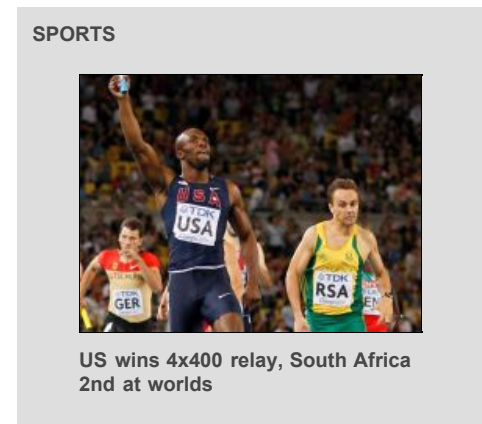
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