

## iBienvenidos!

"Destinations San Antonio" would like to welcome you to our wonderful city! I hope you are ready for a very festive September. I know you will enjoy this edition of my magazine. It was written as if you were a personal friend. Whether you are a returning guest or visiting San Antonio for the first time, "Destinations San Antonio" is for you!

You picked an excellent time to visit, September is the perfect month to experience San Antonio's outdoor scene, which has so much to offer. The mornings are the ideal time for a peaceful stroll along the banks of the River Walk. The afternoons lend themselves to exciting adventures, sightseeing and soaking up the history of this magnificent city.

A visit to San Antonio wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Alamo. There is so much to see when you visit the Alamo. As a child I learned those famous words, "Remember the Alamo", and I still remember my first visit to the Alamo. But as an adult, the meaning, the sacrifice and the emotion run much deeper. This month we

are privileged to have our feature story, "Where Do They Rest?", written by Dr. Richard Bruce Winders, the Historian and Curator of The Alamo.

For 19 years, every September, Fotoseptiembre USA has celebrated photography with a unique and eclectic month long festival, and this year is better then ever. International and local artists alike show off their most prized works of traditional photography, digital images, photography based works and lectures in galleries, museums and art centers

around the city of San Antonio. You are invited to join in the festival where you may even find that one photograph or image that will hang in your home forever.

Now, if all of the above hasn't put you in a festive mood then there is extensive shopping, city tours and even a listing of the top spas for you to relax and soothe your soul. If you're looking for something to do outdoors, how about a round of golf? In this issue you'll find the 10 best courses in San Antonio. Before you hit the links, check out our golf fix for a quick tip that is sure to improve your game.

Confucius said, "誰もが食べると飲み物、まだほんの数食べ物の味に感謝いたします" translated, "Everyone eats and drinks; yet only a few appreciate the taste of food." With that in mind, I saved the best for last, the food. San Antonio is known for its great restaurants and extensive culinary choices. Imagine being able to choose from Seafood, Italian, Southwest, Mexican, American, prime steaks and more. In this issue we introduce you to one of the ethnic jewels in the culinary world, Sumo Japanese Steakhouse. Sumo offers an extensive array of teppanyaki dishes prepared to order in front of you as well as a lively array of sushi rolls and sashimi. Enjoy an evening with knife juggling, eye-popping sushi rolls and attentive customer service. You have to try the Volcano Roll, an explosion of spicy sauces with enough heat to linger long after the last bite!

Enjoy your stay, have fun, and experience one of the world's most fabulous destinations. When it's your time to leave, have a safe trip home and remember we will be waiting for your return. We'll help you discover more about our fascinating and unique city. You will always be greeted with open arms, a big smile, and your own personal guide, deep in the heart of Texas.

Ciao!

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Subscriptions are available, \$30 per year for 12 issues. Please send check to the above address.

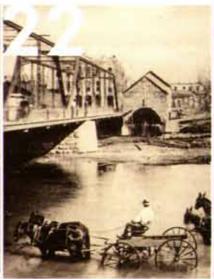
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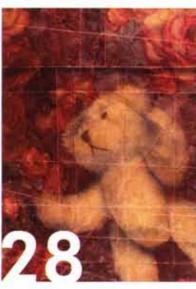
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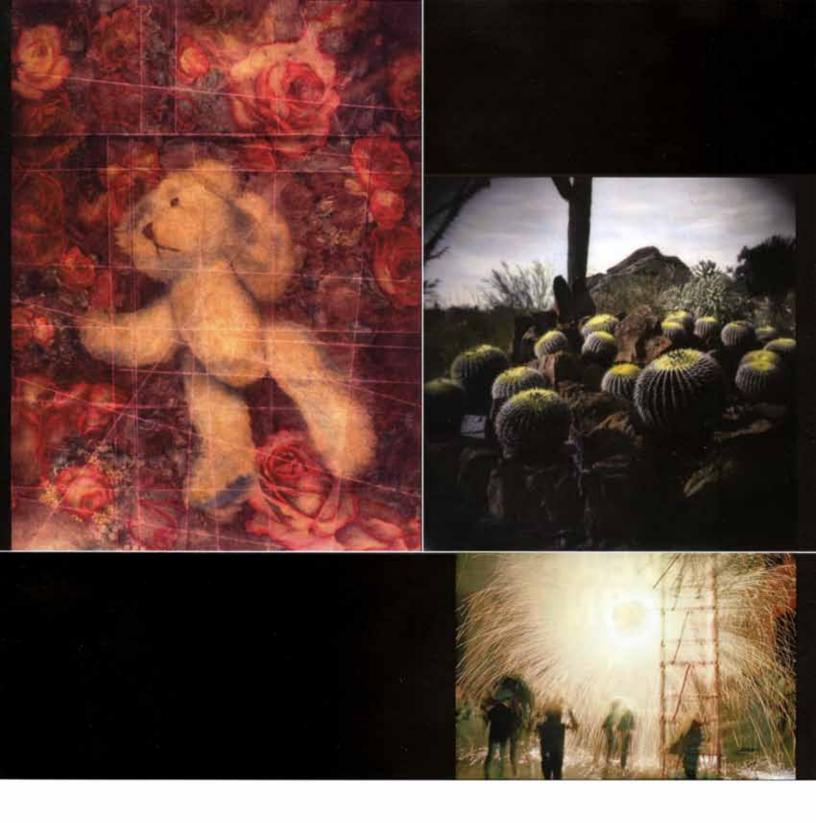


## ON THE COVER

Millions of people visit the River Walk each year to enjoy this unusual urban sanctuary that winds along the San Antonio River. One story below the bustling street level, you will find lush landscapes, quaint pathways, finkling waterfalls, outdoor and relaxing outdoor patios.

photo by Al Rendon

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## **An Insider's Look**

## FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA 2013

by Vernelle Lynch

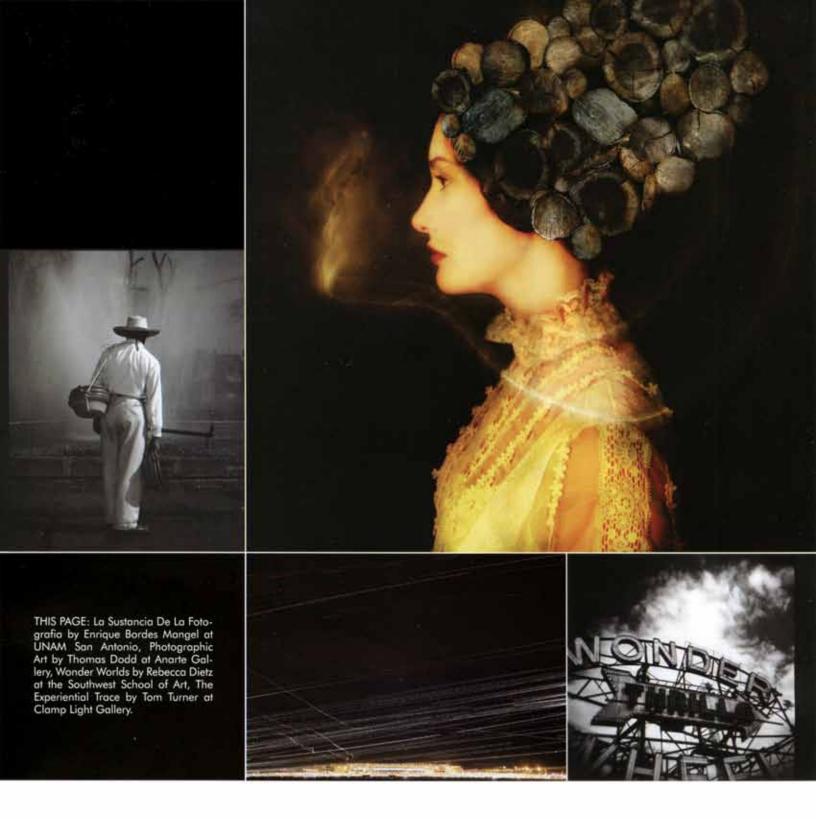
FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA has grown immensely since its inception in 1995, what was only a handful of exhibits and conferences. It is now a full-fledged international celebration of photography that engages the San Antonio/Hill Country/South Texas region as a community of integrated diversities, often creating surprising outcomes. FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA is also, in a more contemporary context, an open-source festival. It fosters a plug-and-play approach in which anyone with talent and dedication can present their photographic works within the platform and context of an internationally recognized festival.

PREVIOUS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Innocent Age by Kathy Vargas at Ren-don Photography & Fine Arts, Silver Alchemy by Sharon Crutchfield at Bihl Haus Arts, In The Eye Of The Sun by Geoff Winningham at COSAS Boerne; THIS PAGE: Jazz Ensemble by Polly Harrison at St. Mary's University, Layers Of Light by Melanie Rush Davis at Northwest Vista College, L'Altro Lato by Tess Martinez at REM Gallery.

There are many fine photographic artists in South Texas who work side-by-side, using traditional and non-traditional methods. Although the debate of the merits of film-based photography versus digital photography could go on forever, the FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA festival organizers are more interested in the wide range of images being created, all of whom are finessing their traditional approaches or experimenting with nonconventional technologies. This inclusiveness is the strength and significance of FOTOSEPTIEM-BRE USA as a forum for the artists. Explore the world through traditional photographs, digital images, photography based works, photographic installations, alternative processes, and everything in between.

After 19 years of presenting FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA, the festival organizers are setting higher standards and bringing their own notions of

quality to the mix. Starting this year, the organizers will look at each exhibit more critically, with the expectation of presenting The Choice Awards to those artists and/or curators whose work and effort stand above the rest. Another first is that the Signature Exhibits will be presented on the SAFOTO Web Galleries. You will find the works of 16 international artists, curated by Michael Mehl (FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA SAFOTO), Krzysztof Jurecki (an independent curator and critic



from Poland), and Chang Chaotang (Taiwan's premier photographic artist, filmmaker, and curator).

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA features several hundred artists in over 60 venues across the area. Which makes it very convenient to explore regardless of where you are. The Villa Finale Visitor Center, the San Antonio Museum of Art, Rendon Photography & Fine Art and SAY Si are just a few in

the downtown area, while UTSA, Gallery Nord and AnArte Gallery are some that are spread throughout San Antonio.

My best advice to make the most out of FOTO-SEPTIEMBRE USA 2013 is to open your eyes and let the artistic expression and exploration take over your soul.

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA takes place every Sep-

tember. Be sure to explore the eclectic scope of works on exhibition, and maybe even take a piece of art or two home.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information and complete exhibit details, visit www.fotoseptiembreusa.com.