

# ON THE TOWN Ezine.com

September/October 2016



Battle for Texas  
Park Plaza Hotel  
FOTOSeptiembre  
1718 Steak House

Tuesday Musical Club  
Christopher Rodriguez  
Tobin Behind the Scenes  
Plus 10 Additional Articles



8



20



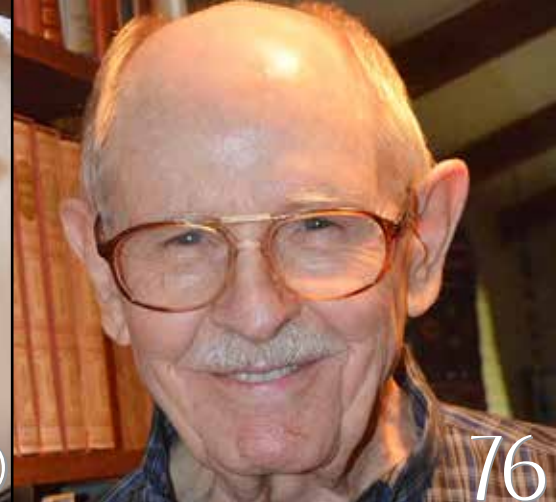
24



30



70



76

# FEATURES

- September and October open the 2016-17 performing arts season in grand style!** 8
- San Antonio's Tobin Center:** The show must go on 14
- Tuesday Musical Club presents its 2016-17 Artist Series.** 94th season features an exceptional lineup of acclaimed musicians 18
- Christopher Rodriguez, the Woodlawn's artistic director, hopes to make the theater the beacon of the Deco District** 20
- Spanish Themes to open opera and ballet seasons** 24
- 1718 Steakhouse - The blending of two passions: history and food** 54
- Mi Tierra:** Celebrating 75 years of comida, cultura and familia 56
- Step back in time 100 years ago at the Park Plaza Hotel Seguin** 58

# FEATURES CONT.

- Fall art exhibits range from nature to narratives** 64
- Yanaguana Indian Arts Market:** A celebration of native art and culture at the Briscoe 68
- FOTOSEPTIEMBRE features new events driven by young artists** 70
- Sister Act: San Antonio design team produces clothing line** 86

# DEPARTMENTS

- Events Calendar** 30
- Book Talk:** Robert Flynn, author and professor 76
- Artistic Destination: Battle for Texas gives Alamo story new life** 82
- Out & About With Greg Harrison** 92

# COVER CREDITS

- Front Cover Photo:**  
Ballet San Antonio's Don Quixote  
Photo by Alexander Devora Still Life Photography
- Performing Arts Cover Photo:**  
Cabaret  
Photo by Joan Marcus
- Events Calendar Cover Photo:**  
Lewis Black  
Courtesy Majestic Theatre
- Culinary Arts Cover Photo:**  
© Nataliaspb | Dreamstime.com
- Visual Arts Cover Photo:**  
FOTOSEPTIEMBRE Southown Exhibit  
Photo by Wendy Bowman
- Literary Arts Cover Photo:**  
© Sheilla Brown | Dreamstime.com
- Eclectics Cover Photo:**  
Photo by Greg Harrison
- Out & About With Greg Harrison Cover Photo:**  
Photo by Greg Harrison

# CONTRIBUTORS

- Mikel Allen  
creative director/  
graphic designer
- Rudy Arispe
- Olivier J. Bourgoin  
(aka, Olivier the Wine Guy)
- Julie Catalano
- Jenny Chowning
- Thomas Duhon
- Dan R. Goddard
- Greg Harrison  
staff photographer
- Christian Lair  
operations manager/  
webmaster
- Kay Lair
- Susan A. Merkner  
copy editor
- Carol Ross
- Cassandra Santos
- Sara Selango
- Jasmina Wellinghoff

**OnTheTownEzine.com is published by Lair Creative, LLC**  
14122 Red Maple  
San Antonio, Texas 78247  
210-771-8486  
210-490-7950 (fax)



# FOTOSEPTIEMBRE

*features new events  
driven by young artists*

By Dan R. Goddard

Despite some three dozen exhibits spread around San Antonio and the Hill Country, Fotoseptiembre USA 2016 has grown smaller and more focused in its 22nd year, according to Michael Mehl, festival director. Because of Fotoseptiembre, September means a bountiful flowering of photography in San Antonio.

"We want Fotoseptiembre to be an opportunity for people to not only see what's going on in photography locally but around the world," Mehl said. "Our goal is to be inclusive and eclectic."

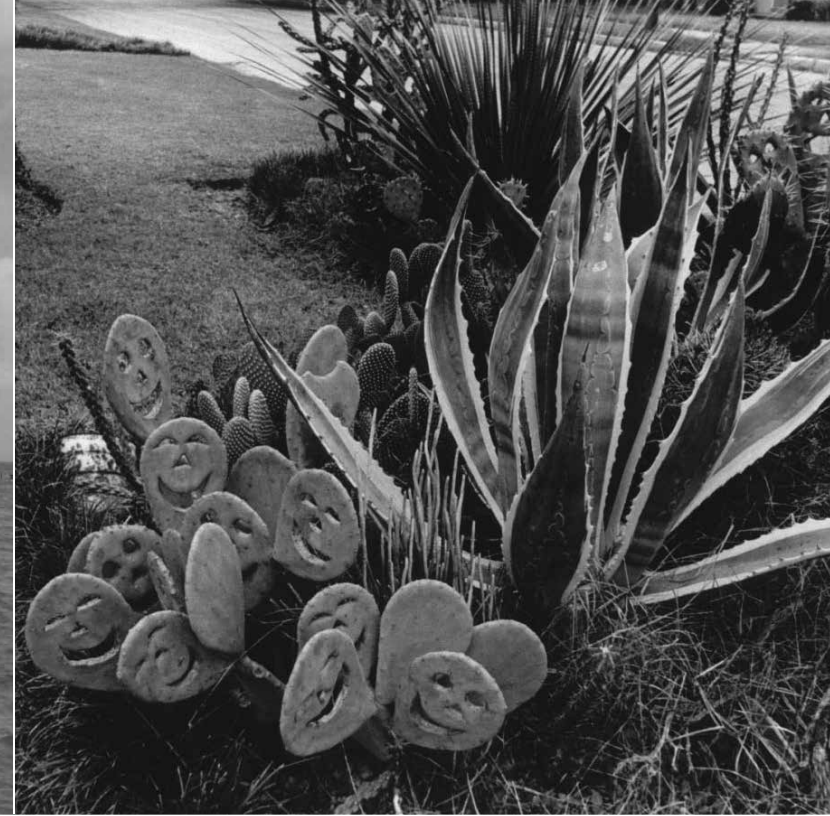
The Photographic Society of America's 78th International Conference and International Exhibition Sept. 13-17 at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk is the centerpiece of Fotoseptiembre, which also includes the Texas Photographic Society's 29th annual members-only show Sept. 1-30 at the San Antonio Central Library.

Ranging from "Puro San Antonio," which asked local photographers "what defines the soul of a city?" at the

Musical Bridges Around the World Gallery through Oct. 21 to "Kick It Old School" at the Freight Gallery and Studios Sept. 10-Oct. 1, this year's community-based photography festival features a new generation of events driven by young artists.

Several Fotoseptiembre shows reflect a renewed sense of pride in San Antonio, and there's a broad sampling of international work, along with diverse exhibits at local college and university art spaces, not to mention artist-run and commercial galleries.

Since 1995 Mehl and partner Ann Kinser have organized Fotoseptiembre, growing from a handful of exhibits to more than 75 by 2003. Gradually, the pair realized size wasn't everything and decided about 30 to 40 exhibits is the most manageable. Mehl now limits himself to curating the online SAFOTO Web Galleries, which this year feature photographers from Taiwan, South Africa, Russia, Mexico and the Canary Islands. A complete calendar as well as the Web Galleries can be found on the website,



fotoseptiembreusa.com.

"We began to realize that narratives were much more important than the number of exhibits being presented," Mehl said. "We are encouraging better curated and organized shows. That's why we introduced the Choice Awards three years ago, so we could recognize the curators, artists and venues doing the best job. There's a surge of younger artists/organizers who are taking a more professional approach. We still have the big group shows, but many of the exhibits are more cohesively organized."

Besides the Musical Bridges and Freight galleries, other projects involving younger artists include Digital Pro Lab's "This is What I Know" Aug. 26-Oct. 3 curated by Melanie Rush Davis and Kemp Davis, Sarah Ann Jones' "Throat-Song" Sept. 1-25 at El Cielo Gallery at Senisa, and Arlene Mejorado at R Space Sept. 9-24 curated by Lady Base Gallery.

"Whether it's old-fashioned wet photography or digital, we've learned that the image is more important than the process," Mehl said. "Even selfies can be an art form if they're well done."

The public can participate in Fotoseptiembre by posting photographs to the Southwest School of Art's Instagram Contest. Curator Mary Mikel Stump has

organized real-life exhibits in the school's galleries, including Austin artist Seth Orion Schwaiger's "Complex 2" in the Russell Hill Rogers Gallery Sept. 1-Oct. 30, which features works that change according to the viewer's location.

"In addition to curating exhibits for the institutions where they work, art educators are organizing shows for galleries and alternative spaces," Mehl said.

San Antonio photographer Tom Turner, who curated Rebecca Drolen's "Transplants" for Northwest Vista College's Palmetto Center for the Arts Sept. 1-Oct. 9, also organized Joshua McDevitt's "Orientation: Unsure" at the Clamp Light Gallery Sept. 9-30. Libby Rowe, who worked with Scott Sherer curating "Making Fact and Fiction" at the University of Texas at San Antonio Main Art Gallery through Sept. 30, also worked with Blue Mitchel on "Lemniscate of Diffusion" Sept. 2-Oct. 23 at A Smith Gallery in Johnson City. Longtime UTSA art prof Kent Rush is showing "46 Years of Photography" Sept. 3-Oct. 28 at REM Gallery.

Brian St. John curated Austin artist Rama Tiru's "Moments/Alternate Moments" in the Louis J. Blue Library Gallery Sept. 1-25 at St. Mary's University. He also organized San Antonian Scott Mueller's "Nick Bottom and the Dark Gloomy Root Vegetables" for Gallery 20/20 Sept. 7-30.

San Antonio College tackles environmental issues in "Natural Visions" Sept. 8-30 in the William R. Sinkin EcoCentro. The University of the Incarnate Word has two exhibits through Sept. 30 by San Antonio photographers in the Kelso Art Center, D. Clarke Evans' "Photographic Projects: World War II Veterans and U.S. Marines" in the Semmes Gallery and Zhifeng Han's "Han's Street Portraits" in the Student Gallery.

Shows with San Antonio pride include "San Antonio and Beyond: Prehistoric Rock Art to Urban Spaces and Familiar Eats" at Highwire Arts Gallery Sept. 9-Oct. 7, Wendy Bowman's "Southtown" Sept. 1-30 at AnArte Gallery, "Estrella Studio: Posed Portraits" by Bertha Gil Rodriguez and Diana Rodriguez Gil Sept. 9-30 at Jump-Start Performance Co. and "Caras III" curated by Deborah Keller-Rihn at Centro Cultural Aztlan Sept. 16-Oct. 14.



**Photo Credits:**

**Page 70:**

**Bow**  
Mark Greenberg  
Musical Bridges Around  
the World Gallery

**Page 71:**

**Southtown**  
Wendy Bird Photography  
AnArte Gallery

**Page 72 (L-R)**

**Cholas with Zapata and Villa**  
1986  
Graciela Iturbide  
Ruiz-Healy Art

**Conversation**  
1986  
Graciela Iturbide  
Ruiz-Healy Art

**Page 73 (L-R):**

**Gate**  
photograph, gelatin-silver on paper,  
5.75 x 8.5 inches, ca.1983  
Kent Rush  
REM Gallery

**Cactus**  
photograph, gelatin-silver on paper,  
6 x 8," ca. 1977  
Kent Rush  
REM Gallery

*As Published in*

ON THE TOWN Ezine.com

September/October 2016