

VISUAL ARTS



'UNGUARDED MOMENT'

National Geographic photog Steve McCurry shares 30 years of portraits from all over the world, offering stunning glimpses into various cultures and rituals. **Feb. 20-March 25.** *Laura Rathe Fine Art, 2707 Colquitt St., 713.527.7700, laurarathe.com*

'VIRTUOUS REALITIES'

Austin-based Chalda Maloff's bright abstract paintings probe at sensuality and spirituality in a modern world. **Feb. 2-26.** *Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd., 713.524.8253, junghouston.org*

'NORMAN BLUHM: A RETROSPECTIVE OF WORKS ON PAPER'

See four decades of this late abstract-expressionist painter's colorful works with his recent architectural pieces. **Feb. 11-March 4.** *McClain Gallery, 2242 Richmond Ave., 713.520.9988, mcclaingallery.com*

MARY LEE GRAY

Gray meshes together small collages of wood, linoleum and rice paper to create larger abstract prints. **Feb. 5-March 4.** *Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy St., 713.522.2409, archwaygallery.com*

'BIRDS OF MUSIC'

U of H alum Heather Bause displays her paintings of songbirds prevalent in North America—each one inspired by the famed Audubon prints. **Feb. 6-March 6.** *Bering & James, 805 Rhode Pl., 713.524.0101, beringandjames.com*

MAURIZIO CATTELAN

This edgy contemporary Italian artist makes his Texas solo debut this month. For more, see Best of the City feature. **Feb. 12-Aug. 15.** *The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St., 713.525.9400, menil.org*

'PRENDERGAST IN ITALY'

MFA exhibits 70 public—and private—collection works spanning watercolor, oils, sketchbooks and letters from American impressionist Prendergast's multiple trips to Venice. **Feb. 14-May 9.** *Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet St., 713.639.7300, mfab.org*

FRANCESCA FUCHS

This local painter's latest works feature clean lines and soft subtle colors. **Feb. 18-March 27.** *Texas Gallery, 2012 Peden St., 713.524.1593, texgal.com*

'A FUGITIVE CROSSES HIS TRACKS-DEPARTURE'

Up-and-coming Danish artist Mie Olise debuts new paintings, installations and video, all dealing with themes of departure through images like flying ships and free-falling suitcases. **Feb. 19-March 20.** *Barbara Davis Gallery, 4411 Montrose Blvd., 713.520.9200, barbaradavisgallery.com*

POP LEGENDS ART SALE

Michael Godard and New York sculptor and painter Charles Fazzino show their pop artworks. For more on Godard, see "In Godard We Trust" at right. **Feb. 20-21.** *Off The Wall Gallery, 5015 Westheimer Rd., 713.871.0940, offthewallgallery.com*

'TAXONOMY OF UNUSUAL EVENTS ON THE MOUNTAIN'

Texas-based Charles Mary Kubricht shows her collection of photographs and installations dealing with experiences that can occur on a mountaintop. **Feb. 20-March 27.** *Moody Gallery, 2815 Colquitt St., 713.526.7749, moodygallery.com*

NEW GALLERY GROUP SHOW

An exhibit of contemporary artists Yun Bai, Wendy Wagner, Linda Dautreuil and Tara Conley. **Feb. 20-March 20.** *New Gallery, 2627 Colquitt St., 713.520.7053, newgallery.net*



[Q&A]

Godard's 'Warhol'

In Godard We Trust

Whether they're gracing of cruise ships or the Pentagon officers' lounge, **Michael Godard's** anthropomorphic olives and sleek martini glasses are eye-catching. Pal to Ozzy Osbourne and Mötley Crüe's Vince Neil, Godard, 46, hits the Galleria's Off the Wall Gallery Feb. 20. —*Peter Barnes*

Why depict female characters as plump, red strawberries? When I picture a woman pampering herself, I picture her as a sexy strawberry with glittering shoes and a Coach bag, sipping on Champagne and talking with her girlfriends about how sophisticated they are. **You don't drink. Why so much booze in your pieces?** It's used on a first date to break the ice, calm the nerves, celebrate at a wedding. I've always looked at it as a vehicle to speak to people. Unfortunately, I'll send a painting to a gallery and they'll say, "We'd love your painting, but it's actually a salt shaker and not a sugar shaker that goes with this particular alcohol." **You raise cash for charities with your pieces. How generous is Houston?** People out there are incredible givers. ... We've always had great success with charities in Texas in general.