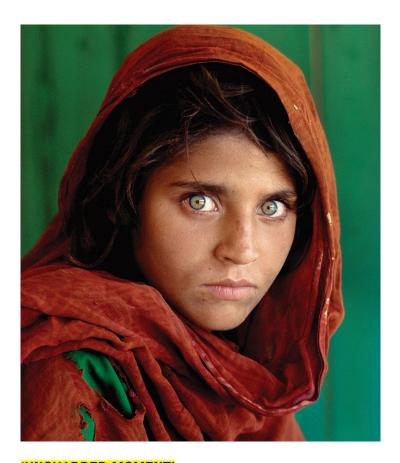
VISUAL ARTS



'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 abstractexpressionist 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, mfah.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 freefalling 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, offihewallgallery.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*



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 charites 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.