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Plus...

Editors' choice
Top Ten picks by:

Arch T. Allen

Diane Lea

Carroll Leggett

Frances Smith

Rick Smith

Art Taylor

Philip van Vleck

Molly Fulghum Heintz

Louis St. Lewis

Moreton Neal

Barbara Ensrud

WHO'S WHO 2003

Meet the **PEOPLE**
who made the
DIFFERENCE



PHOTO BY LOUIS ST. LEWIS

Artist-at-Large

by Louis St. Lewis

TOP TEN ARTISTS EXHIBITED IN 2003

I have a voracious eye. I love to look...at EVERYTHING. It matters not if it is a diamond, a dead deer, or Michael Jackson being hauled off to jail; if it's out there, I'm going to look at it. I'm that person in the limousine in front of you, gawking at a car wreck. I'm the one who sat motionless in front of my television for days on end, my only sustenance a few slices of smoked salmon, from the moment Princess Diana was killed until her interment on that grassy mound at Althorp House.

Needless to say, I've seen a lot of art, both

slivers of salmon, the show was sold out! Everything was gone in those first two hours. Very Impressive. Jane has a confidence that radiates from the paintings and in the simply stunning Tyndall Gallery—how could she go wrong?

REVEREND M. ROBBINS LONG

The Cameron Museum of Art in Wilmington was the perfect backdrop for this ambitious display of wacky paintings based on the *Book of Revelation*. Never shown during his

lifetime, these intense erotic and hypnotic paintings were an embarrassment to his landed-gentry family and simply stacked up in piles to await an uncertain future. The Cameron Museum showed them off in style, and it was good to see there have always been NC artists who bucked the system.

GEORGE BIRLINE

Shortly after Birline's death, the NC Museum of Art opened an exhibition in memory of Birline that ran until August 2003. And this summer Lee Hansley arranged

a wonderful show of Birline's large-scale paintings in the lobby of the BTI Performing Arts Center in Raleigh. George was serious and committed through and through. There could be no better memorial to him than these thoughtful and well-organized exhibits that showed off the depth and breadth of his talents to perfection.

WAYNE TRAP

Wayne received double exposure from both Tyndall Gallery and Pinchurst's Judy Broadhurst Gallery. Wayne is one of the state's treasures. He lives life full throttle, and his paintings and sculpture are to be celebrated. Anyone who has sipped scotch in the back of Wayne's



Watervillet, Jane Flier, acrylic on canvas

burgundy Rolls Royce knows that this man has a sense of style that transcends the mundane. Why isn't he in the NC Museum of Art or the Cameron Museum after such a full life of creativity? Hint: art is politics, and don't let anyone tell you different.

DAVID SOLO

David transformed the main gallery of Raleigh's Artspace into his own quirky world of passing time, decay and remembrance. This artist is one of those few who seemingly have no enemies, and whose imagination is both fertile and entertaining. Part carpenter, part videographer, part image choreographer, David keeps the spectator salivating for more, more, more.

MIA YOON

Sometimes an artist can shout with a whisper, and that is what Mia Yoon does with her well-constructed and stylishly cool sculptures and paintings. Mia is a minimalist who gives maximum pleasure. I only wish that I had enough room in my own home for one of her beautiful and luminous creations. Raleigh's Bickett Gallery showed her off to perfection and should be congratulated for taking the stab at minimalism in a world of "maximalism."

KATHRYN DEMARCO

Ms. DeMarco is a collage artist par excel-



Calle Sol and Cuba, Habana Vieja, Looking North from Alberto Rojas's 1951 Plymouth, May 23, 1998, Havana, Cuba, photograph by Alex Harris

good and bad this year. Some of the good is so very good that I become instantly enraptured and faint to the floor in a state of ecstasy. Some of the bad is so very bad it makes last night's sautéed quail race toward my tonsils, and I want nothing more than to gouge out my eyes so I never have to see such horrors again. I have strong opinions. That said, here, kind reader, are my observations on some of the best visual art offerings in our area during 2003.

JANE FILER

Jane is scorching hot right now. I walked into her opening at Tyndall Gallery in Chapel Hill's University mall and by the time I sipped a few glasses of white burgundy and had a few

PHOTO BY ALEX HARRIS

lence. The world she constructs is grand, opulent, self-referential and lush. I could stand in Craven Allen Gallery in Durham all day and look at her art. Every inch reveals a new mystery; every slice of the scissors forms edges and lines and colors and textures that would make Matisse laugh from the grave. This lady has only great things in store for her.

ALEX HARRIS

Sometimes lions lie in the brush unnoticed by the passing gazelle. Internationally recognized photographer Alex Harris, whose stunning images have found homes at the Getty, the MOMA, the High Museum and the Met, had local shows at both the John Hope Franklin Center and Duke University's Perkins Library this year. I am in love with the outrageously beautiful images of Cuban cityscapes through the windshields of aging American automobiles. With Chapel Hill's own Ann Stewart now representing the artist both here and abroad, I can only imagine the best is yet to come for this talented photographer.

LYNN BOGGESS

I normally don't like landscapes, but when I saw the overwhelmingly beautiful paintings by Lynn Boggess, I was floored. Water shimmered with hypnotic realism, the trees screamed at the passing of each leaf. I could almost imagine the chirping of crickets as I gazed on these huge canvases. But here is the real question. How has Jane Tyndall managed to develop such a beautiful gallery so quickly?

BOB RANKIN

Glance Gallery in downtown Raleigh roared onto the scene this year with an amazing stable, a great space and a young, modern attitude. Veteran artist Bob Rankin showed that time has only purified his amazing eye and that he stands shoulder to shoulder with the best artists in the state. His abstractions are confident, colorful and desirable by collectors. What is there not to love? **MM**



Aspen College by Bob Rankin

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