



## ARTS ALIVE SAN ANTONIO

### News Rundup, June 3, 2021

🕒 June 4, 2021 | 📍 News and Commentary

Lots of news in the visual arts!

First, kudos to the City of San Antonio for including art in the newly renovated **City Hall**. Six new art installations by local artists are now a permanent part of the building that dates back to 1889. According to the press release, it is one of the oldest public buildings in continuous use in the country.

“City Hall is an icon of public service and municipal government and these artworks bring much more than interior décor for this place, stated Mayor Ron Nirenberg. “They intrinsically set the tone for the important issues tackled here, rooting us in the fabric of San Antonio. The installations serve as a documentation of our rich heritage and a way to express the vibrancy and diversity of our community.”



Emily Fleisher: Foundational Elements

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The art pieces are distributed over several floors, placed in niches, “which were uncovered during the renovation process.” As for subject matter, the art deals with predictable historic themes, as well as with the San Antonio music scene, parks and green spaces, architecture, and “the daily life of three San Antonio streets.”

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The artists involved are Ruth Leonela Buentello; Ana Fernandez; Raul Rene Gonzalez; Emily Fleisher; Megan Harrison and Mari Hernandez. We like the inclusion of music genres that San Antonio is known for, and we are intrigued by Fernandez’s “Three Streets” – Fredericksburg, Culebra and Austin Highway – which are represented by vertical landscapes. We can’t wait to see it all!



Ruth Leonella Buentello: Gamerninas from “The Sitter”

Blue Star Contemporary has just opened an interesting new exhibit, “The Sitter” featuring artists who use portraiture and figuration not just to record their subjects’ appearance in the traditional way, but to provoke questions and conversation about the depicted subjects, to imagine the stories suggested by the artworks. We have seen the show, and we recommend it. (See feature story from June 2, on this site.) Blue Star Contemporary is located in the Blue Star Complex on S. Alamo,

<https://bluestarcontemporary.org>.

More new art can be seen at Ruiz-Healy Art which will open the exhibit, “E La Nave Va” next Wednesday, June 9. The Italian title literally means “And the ship sails on” but it is also a way of saying “Life goes on” despite setbacks, difficulties and..., well, pandemics. There’s actually a painting in the show by that title, the work of the Argentine-born Cecilia Biagini, who



Cecilia Biagini: “E La Nave Va”

now lives in New York City. Ruiz-Healy Art has shown her work a number of times. The “Nave” painting included in this show, though basically abstract, evokes the shape of a mighty ship ready to sail. In her statement, the artist says that in her painting “forms build up inside forms just to decompose again, expressing the state of the world and the vision for the future.” Other artists in the exhibit are: San Antonians Nate Cassie, Richard Armendariz, Ana Fernandez, Leigh Anne Lester, Cesar A. Martinez, Christina

Categories

Muniz and Mark Schlesinger. (Exhibit opens June 9, on view till Aug.14; Ruiz-Healy Art gallery, 201-A E. Olmos Drive, 78212; 210-804-2219; [www.RuizHealyArt.com](http://www.RuizHealyArt.com))