

Art off the beaten path has interesting offerings

Ceramic pieces and balloons are among the items to see.

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You may need a car, a hone, a computer; a map and patience to find some of the city's more offbeat galleries, especially those open by appointment only, but Contemporary Art Month is a good time to explore what's new and adventurous on the local gallery scene. Here's a guide:

TPS (Triangle Project Space), 416 E. La Chappelle St., (210) 222-1861. Peter Glassford designs furniture while partner Luz Maria Sanchez is a sound artist whose work is currently on view at Artpace. They started the original Triangle Project Space in 2003 at their triangular-shaped studio building on South Flores Street.

They shortened the name after moving into a warehouse that's about three blocks east of South Flores, not far from Andy Benavides' One9Zero6 Gallery. TPS has nonprofit status now, and Glassford said it's mainly devoted to cultivating more of a contemporary scene in San Antonio.

Through Sept. 9, "Mobile" features ceramic pieces by international artists who visited Guadalajara, Mexico, to work at the Ceramica Suro factory, which produces traditional hand-painted Talavera porcelain. Jose Noe Suro, the son of the founder has been inviting well-known artists to create contemporary pieces for the past eight years.

Jorge Pardo, born in Cuba and living in Los Angeles, made elegant, spherical vessels with pale green and blue patinas; they are in the collection of Linda Pace. John Baldessari pays homage to Marcel Duchamp with his brightly colored ceramic bedpans. Liz Craft hand-shaped big, brown "Snow-Capped Mountain Mamas." Mike Bouchet cast realistic, lightweight ceramic crowbars. Eduardo Sarabia used Talavera blue-and-white patterns incorporating pin-up girls, wine glasses and automatic weapons.

C-Art, 1426 W. Craig Place, (210) 380-6508 Claudia and Carlos Trevino originally bought the old frame house overlooking a drainage channel to use as a studio, but priorities changed, and they decided to devote the spacious front rooms to a gallery, presenting three to four shows a year, mostly by up-and-coming artists. UTSA graduate Jimmy Kuehnle, who rode to fame on his First Friday art bike tours, has de-constructed corporate logos, reducing them to the binary codes required for them to appear on computer screens. Through July 30, "Jimmy in Binary" features works such as "The Walt Disney Company" presented as rows of hand-written "1s" and "0s" on plain white drawing paper.

FL!GHT Gallery, 1906 S. Flores St., (210) 872-2586 Formerly in the Blue Star Silos, Justin Parr's gallery is popular with a young crowd. He's moved into the same warehouse as the One9Zero6 Gallery, which affords him better hours and climate control. His openings are hip happenings, with live music, poetry and other performances.

His first show in the new space, "The Flight to Nowhere Is Infinite," is mostly small works by the artists who helped him get established, including David (Shrek) Vega, Ryan Parker (who worked on "A Scanner Darkly"), Beto Gonzales and Michelle Valdez, also known as Bunnyphonic. Parr said upcoming shows are set for Cruz Ortiz, John Mata and Marlys Dietrich.

i2i Gallery, 2110 McCullough Ave., (210) 744-7887 If it's filled neck-deep with yellow balloons, you've found the storefront gallery operated for the past two years by UTSA graduate students **Judith Cottrell** and Gary Smith. For her CAM show called "**Pink Lemonade**," Cottrell drew on the walls with roller ball pens and blew up more than 5,000 balloons. It's a nonprofit gallery, even though they don't have the legal status yet, that features mostly experimental work by emerging artists.

Artereyes Contemporary Art, 1400 S. Alamo St., (210) 215-7746 Harlendale High School art teacher Felipe Reyes has a studio/gallery at the end of the hall near StoneMetal Press on the second floor of Building B at the Blue Star Arts Complex.

He features a variety of work by local artists, but for CAM he's showing a new series of his figurative painting after many years of abstract work. A highly stylized coyote stands in for Mexican immigrants in paintings such as "Cholo Following the Money." The flute-playing trickster Kokopelli appears in Southwestern scenes, and there are mystical landscapes in a mandala style.

Image Caption:

1. 'Mobile' features contemporary ceramic pieces by international artists. The art is on display through Sept. 9 at TPS (Triangle Project Space). PHOTO: TRIANGLE PROJECT SPACE; 2. 'Pink Lemonade' is the first show for Judith Cottrell as a professional artist. She recently completed her master's of fine art degree at UTSA. PHOTO: ERIC KAYNE/STAFF; 3. UTSA graduate Jimmy Kuehnle's exhibit 'Jimmy in Binary' features the binary coding of corporate logos such as the Walt Disney Co. PHOTO: C-ART
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