

## Lawndale Big Show Highlights!

July 13th, 2012 – Kelly Klaasmeyer

Lawndale's annual and much-anticipated Big Show opens tonight (Friday the 13th) from 6:30 – 8:30. Curated by [Marco Antonini](#), gallery director of [Brooklyn's NURTUREart](#), it's one of the smallest and sparest Big Shows in memory and that's not a bad thing at all. As artist [Elaine Bradford](#) sagely observed at last night's preview, "It looks like a real show instead of The Big Show."

Here are some of the highlights...

I saw gallerist [Barbara Davis](#) and Texas über-curator [Clint Willour](#) at the preview and asked them to name their favorites. Both pointed to [Patrick Renner's](#) work.



Patrick Renner, *Sunburst*, 2012. Found painted wood and polyurethane.

Willour had some other favorites as well:

Henri Gadbois is an 82-year-old and a painter who showed at Houston's long lost DuBose Gallery. He now makes fake food for stuff like the Bayou Bend yuletide display. I love that this is in The Big Show. Gadbois is like the Duane Hanson of food.



Henri Gadbois, *Three Oysters*, 2012, earthenware, resin and acrylic.

It took me a bit to figure out that the creepy crawling thing in Katie Wynne's sculpture was a rotating tie rack. At first it looked like one of those motorized toys the mall kiosk guys are always



Henri Gadbois, *Orange and Peel*, 2012, earthenware, resin and acrylic.



Katie Wynne, *Untitled (Satin)*, 2011. Motorized tie rack and satin.

demonstrating. The piece is simple, elegant and unsettling.

Another great Willour pick, Mari Omori's *Time Machine*. They're really beautifully done and who doesn't like soap

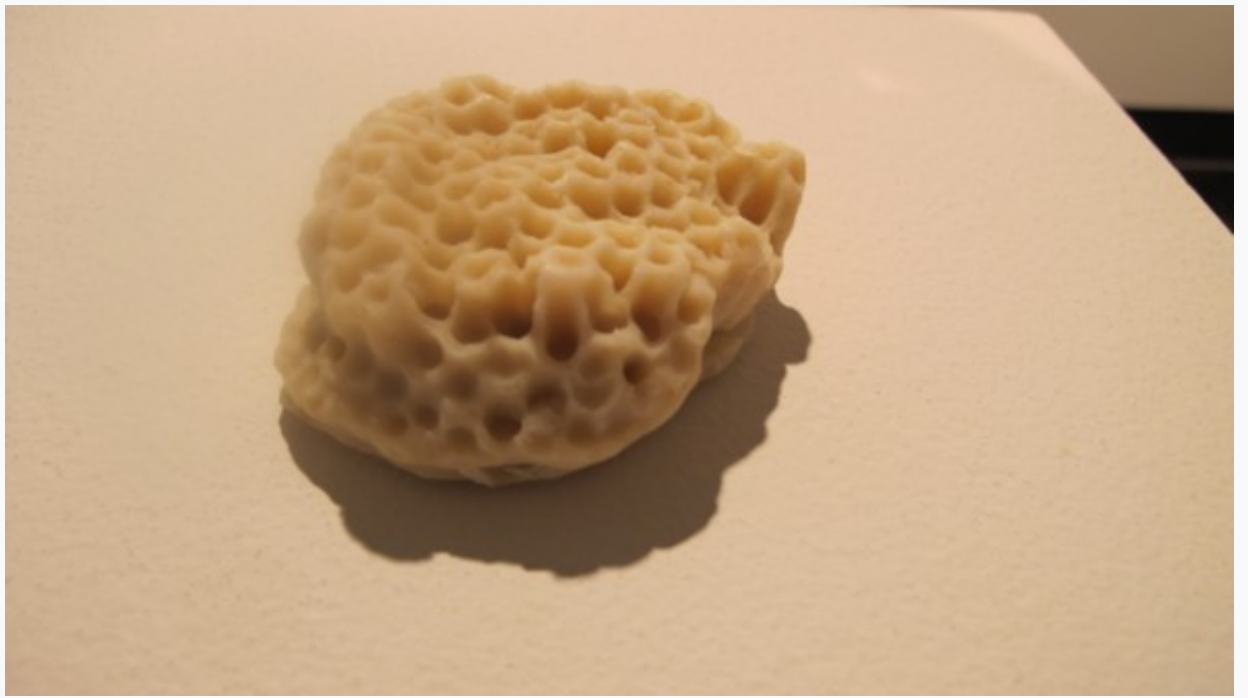


Mari Omori, *Time Machine*, 2012. Soap and platter.

sculptures??? You really, really want to touch them.

Aside from being selectively lean, this Big Show doesn't betray any obvious curatorial prejudices. Antonini chose a wide range of interesting stuff. Although soap as a material did appear more than once....

Julie Lundgren & Wyatt John Little's cast *Hornet Soap* is a lovely little object that would be equally at home in an art gallery or on Etsy. Doesn't all of this soap stuff make you want to [take a knife to a bar of ivory?](#)



Julie Lundgren & Wyatt John Little, *Hornet Soap*, 2012. Cold process soap cast from original hornet's nest.

Kassandra Bergman's *Always* manages a little found object poetry with a piece of cardboard box and some frosty glitter.

I just realized while posting that the following two works are both by [Donna E. Perkins](#).

I really liked Perkin's big crumpled paper floor sculpture, *WS2; VO6.12 Long and Short*. I think the paper is stiffened with glue or something. It's surprisingly beautiful and baroque. All it needs is [St. Theresa](#). Meanwhile Perkin's video *Beached Bag, Galveston* creates a hypnotic beauty from the surf and a piece of fabric. It's another nice use of unassuming material but another terrible title. Sometimes the old standby "Untitled" is best...

Sunshieva's *Faded Photo II* is one of the stronger paintings. It's a little Marlene Dumas meets Luc Tuymans and I like it. (It's not quite as blurred as my photograph of it – the kids got some crap on my lens, hence the "soft focus" section in all my photos. Apologies, artists.)

There are a couple other paintings in the show that channel some other, this time Houston, artists. Group shows like this are an interesting way to gauge the influence of particular artists and see it percolating through the Houston art community.

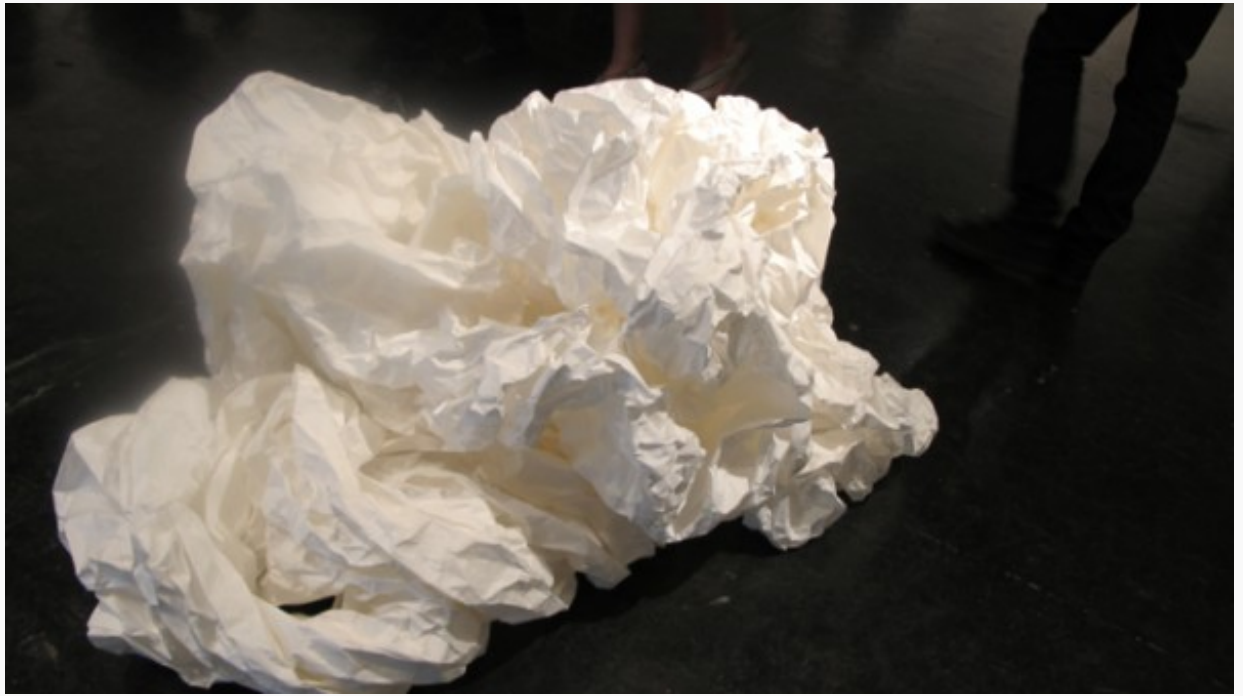
The muted tones of Cary Reeder's *Three O'Clock Shadow* remind me a lot of [Francesca Fuchs](#)'s work.

And Norberto Clemente's *The Worship* calls to mind [Michael Bise](#)'s 2009 *Revival* drawing.



Kassandra Bergman, *Always*, 2011. Glitter and cardboard.

The 2012 Big Show has a lot of strong work and it's well worth seeing. Yeah, there's some goofy stuff as well but that's the nature of big juried



Donna E. Perkins, *Changeling: WS2; VO6.12 Long and Short*, 2012. Paper, glue, clear tape and string.



Donna E. Perkins, *Beached Bag, Galveston*, 2012. Video, approx. 3 min. 30 sec. on continuous loop.

exhibitions...

also by Kelly Klaasmeyer



Sunshieva, *Faded Photo II*, 2011, oil on canvas.



Cary Reeder, *Three O'Clock Shadow*, 2012. Acrylic on canvas.



Norberto Clemente, *The Worship*, 2011. Oil on canvas.