

# HARLINGEN ART FORUM

Issue: JANUARY 2007

Friday, January 12, 2007

## A SECOND LIFE: BENJAMIN P. VARELA

The exhibit opening and reception for Ben Varela's exhibit *A Second Life* was a great success. Combined with the January 2007 Harlingen Art Walk the reception drew over two hundred visitors to D'Arte Centre.

Ben's work is displayed in the front area of the gallery where it is set up in five conceptual categories.

The categories beginning in the West window and circling around the gallery are Music and Casitas (little houses), Borderlands, New Art., Mexican Printmaking Workshop, and Boriqua (Puerto Rican) Identity.

The Coqui Frog, a beloved Puerto Rican symbol, is part of the Boriqua Identity category because if the frog is taken off the island, it dies.

Varela, who has been painting for only about six years, said he evolved from being a print artist to a painter, and that's the meaning behind the exhibit's title.

"It's a different type of art work," Varela said. "I just use my brush and every dot has a narration. I once read that the world is not made up of atoms, it's made up of stories."

Varela said he uses that way of thinking as inspiration and often paints using only his memory.

One of his paintings in the Borderlands category, "The emergence of two valleys," reminds him of Oaxaca, Mexico, and the artists there.



## **HARLINGEN ART FORUM MEETING IS MONDAY JANUARY 22ND 6 PM AT D'ARTE CENTRE**

The January regular meeting will be held at 6 pm January 22nd at D'Arte Centre.

Featured Artist Ben Varela will discuss his current paintings and his previous work in printmaking and three dimensional art.

Ben was a member of the Mexican Printmaking Workshop in Chicago in the 1980s and several of his pieces from that time period are on display in his exhibit.

If you haven't had a chance to see the exhibit please arrive early so you can have plenty of time. There are over 30 significant

pieces in the display and the depth of imagery and breadth of the subject matter is vary sweeping.

Refreshments will be served prior to the short business meeting and don't forget to bring a few dollars for the raffle prizes.

### **SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

There are 112 members of the Harlingen Art Forum as of January 2007

Over 70 of those artists display more than 300 works at D'Arte Centre

## **MEMBERS HAVE GREEN THUMBS AS WELL AS RAINBOW PALETTES**

House plants can bring homes to life

December 30,2006

Travis M. Whitehead  
Monitor Staff Writer

You see them everywhere, wrapping themselves around shade trees or crawling across the ground.

Ivy, especially pothos ivy with splashes of yellow across its emerald green leaves, is simple and easy to grow, said **Craig**

**Wiegand**, who is retired from the agricultural research service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It doesn't need much light," Wiegand said. "It will adjust to poor light and continue to live and look pretty good."

Wiegand is one of many plant lovers in the Rio Grande Valley who like to fill their homes with colorful growing things. Split-leaf philodendron, Hawaiian ti with its violet leaves, and coleus with red leaves and flaming yellow edges can bring a drab home to life.

Pothos Ivy



"I like them, I talk to them like that, they are the nicest things,"

said **Lana Marie Paris**, 58, who keeps a number of ivies in her home.

While hanging plants usually dangle from shade trees in people's yards, they also can add an extra dimension to the interior of a home, said Joe Salas, manager of Mid Valley Garden & Pond Supply. Salas said that if homeowners hang Boston ferns, macho ferns, and joyas near good sources of light, they will provide many wonderful hours of greenery. Be careful, however, with the water.

"They get mealy bugs with too much water," he said. "It's a form of scale."

Pothos and other ivies should not get too much water, either, he said.

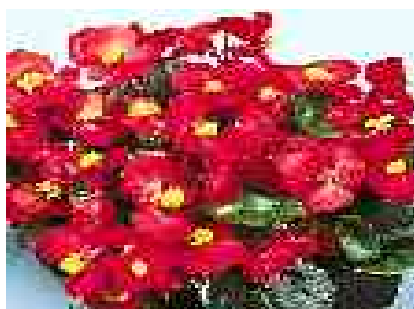
"Finger test it," he said. "If it feels dry, then water. If it's moist, don't water."

Because conditions inside a home tend to be less humid, potting soils tend to dry out much more rapidly. Salas said the spider plant makes a pleasant addition to the household. Yet like the other ferns and ivies, it needs to be near a window.

Plant enthusiasts also can use grower lights if there is not a readily available window. Fertilizer containing phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium should be applied once a month. House plants should be taken outside about once every three months and thoroughly watered, then allowed to drain to leach out any salts and other minerals.

**BillyLyn Clark**, who took the Master Gardener course with Barbara Storz at the Texas Cooperative Extension, said begonias are also good house plants. They come in many shapes and sizes: rex begonias with splashes of scarlet and sheer green; beefsteak begonias with thick round green leaves; star-leaf begonias with dainty pink flowers mounted on tall stalks; and so many more populate the begonia family. The begonia, Clark said, is one of a number of plants that can be grown inside or out in the yard.

Begonia



"They have to be in dry soil," she said. "If you over-water them, they die."

There any house plants that do like water. Crotons, those colorful plants with thick glossy leaves in earth green, burnt sienna, and deep violet love water, and they also can grow indoors.

"Crotons do well in the house," she said. "They require quite a bit of water."

Wiegand, who has also taken the master gardener course, said that in recent years lucky bamboo, which simply grows in a glass of water, has come into the picture. While there is some disagreement about whether this is a true bamboo, there seems little doubt that these twisting stalks curling out of water glasses are a hit for many enthusiasts and amateurs alike.



Lucky Bamboo

"They cut the stem and give it to you when it has little shoots on it, three or four inches," he said.

He and his wife purchased one of these novelties several years ago; its shoots have now grown to about 16 inches.

If you want to achieve something a little grander and more elegant, try a small palm tree. "Almost any type palm will do," Clark said. "They require a large area because the fronds go out wide. They need lots of light."

## PASTEL SOCIETY OF THE WEST COAST

### 21ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL OPEN EXHIBITION

The Pastel Society of the West Coast has announced that their 21st annual International open exhibition Pastels USA will be open from May 8 to June 2, 2007.

The exhibition will take place at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center in Sacramento California .

All pastelists aged 18 and over are invited to submit dry pastel entries, no oil pastels will be accepted. Detailed entry information can be found at

<http://pswc.ws/>

Deadline for entry of slides is March 3, 2007 and the calendar of events for the exhibition is as follows:

Slide Jurying March 17

Acceptances Mailed March 24

To Shipper April 28

Hand Delivery May 5 11am - 1pm

Awards Judging May 5

Show Opens May 8

Awards & Reception May 19 1-3pm

Show Closes -Pick Up June 2

Entry fee is \$40 for 3 slides, \$35 for members of the PSWC

## WORDS WITHOUT VOICES™ ONLINE ALBUM ART COMPETITION

A very unusual competition is currently open for artist submissions. The online competition is designed with a music cover art theme, either songbook or album art.

Category I – SONGBOOK Jacket Design with 25 different SONGBOOKS to choose from.

Each SONGBOOK jacket bears the SONGBOOK Title (Front & Back Covers) and five Album Titles (Back Cover).

How to illustrate our SONGBOOK jackets:

Read the SONGBOOK Title and the five Album Titles and render Artwork which best fits the Titles.

Your Artwork and the Title of the SONGBOOK appears on the front cover.

Your Artwork, the Title of the SONGBOOK and the five Album Titles appear on the back cover.

Category II – ALBUM Jacket Design with 125 different ALBUMS to choose from.

Each ALBUM jacket bears the ALBUM Title (Front & Back Covers) and ten Song Titles (Back Cover).

How to illustrate our ALBUM jackets:

Read the ALBUM Title and the ten Song Titles and render Artwork which best fits the Titles.

Your Artwork and the Title of the ALBUM appears on the front cover.

Your Artwork, the Title of the ALBUM and the ten Song Titles appear on the back cover.

Deadline for entry is August 31st 2007, entry fee is \$10 for one category, \$15 for both.

Official information at

[www.wordswithoutvoices.com/](http://www.wordswithoutvoices.com/)

## INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT ON AND OFF THE WEB

[http://www.artchive.com/ftp\\_site.htm](http://www.artchive.com/ftp_site.htm)

A website compendium of many artists with clickable links to many of their works on the web.

<http://www.artlex.com/>

An encyclopedia of terms used discussing art/visual culture—Can you say MEANDER 'cause that's what you'll do. Fascinating

## COBALT GALLERY

If you haven't had a chance to visit during Art Walk you need to stop by. The shared studio and exhibit space of several Harlingen artists is a hidden gem within the city. Occupying a former cotton warehouse the upper story space is replete with north facing skylights and magnificent open spaces.

Studio space is divided as to need with some small rooms occupied by painters and larger rooms occupied by sculptors and ceramicists. One room is devoted entirely to ceramic kilns.

The rectangular center gallery displays sculptural pieces and other art by the coop members.

Artists include :

Jesus Delarosa

Sylvia Senteno

Aleita Garcia Wedgeworth

Jessica Salazar McBride

Nancy Selight

Nancy Russell

and Harlingen Art Forum Members

**Kisti Beckwith**

**Mary Kay Crawford**

**Judee Koester Soendker**

Stop in above the feed store on Commerce just north of Jackson

## Calendar of Events

### SOOOOOO MANY EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Check the calendar at  
**WWW.HARLINGENART  
FORUM.COM**

January 22nd 6pm Meeting of the Harlingen Art Forum, D'Arte Centre, 115 E Jackson St

Pharr Spring Classic Art Show & Sale Friday Saturday and Sunday Feb 2,3,4

February 2nd 5—10 pm various venues around McAllen—McAllen Art Walk

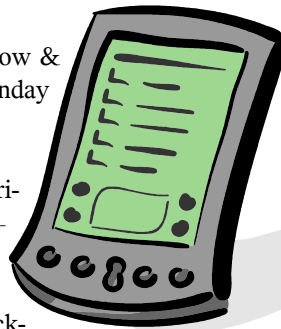
February 3rd—Harlingen Jackson Street Market Days

February 10th The 8th Annual Ocelot Conservation Festival will be held at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, TX and will include fishing, archery, Arts and Crafts, Live Touch Tanks, a Hunting Simulation Laser Game, an Obstacle Course, A Silent Auction, Nature Seminars, A Butterfly Tent, and a special program featuring live ocelots!

February 11—Eighth Annual McAllen Street Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown McAllen on Broadway from Austin to Dallas Avenue

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Need we remind you? Buy your special loved one(s) that unique gift of art! Visit D'Arte Centre for the perfect gift

February 15-18, 2007 Brownsville International Birding and Nature Festival



February 18—25, Brownsville & Matamoros—Charro Days, celebrated

with a four day Latin Festival each year since 1938, complete with elaborate costuming, carnivals, parades, dances. A program of events is held in both Brownsville and its sister city, Matamoros, Mexico, which demonstrates the relationship between both countries. Admission is Free

February 25th 9am - 4:30 pm Enjoy a day of fun for the whole family. See Scottish Heavy Athletics and the Scottish Trapper exhibit. Enjoy the talents of the Irish dancers, Dulcimer band, Loretta Thompson and Tom Broderick. See the parade of tartans or visit a clan booth. We will have storytelling from the "Front porch" and fencing demonstrations. Try your skills at the many activities that will be going on outside. We will have BBQ, authentic "meat pies", funnel cakes and more Palmview Community Center in McAllen

February 26th HAF Meeting - 6pm at D'Arte Centre

## Member news

Among the new members of the Harlingen Art Forum are

**Raquel Hinojosa** and

**Matilde Caceres - Zelnger.**

Both Raquel and Matilde have been artist exhibitors at the Harlingen Art Forum's Beachcombers Fine Art Show and in January 2007 they were participating artists in the Harlingen Art Walk.

Matilde maintains the website [www.miczedesignstudio.com](http://www.miczedesignstudio.com) where you can see more of her art.

Raquel's work is featured prominently on her web site <http://hinojosa.myexpose.com/>

Among her many activities is the operation of HINOvations Casa Cultural where she offers children's classes in art.

**Slim Owen** is the current Online Featured Artist at: [www.HarlingenArtForum.com](http://www.HarlingenArtForum.com)

If you haven't checked out our own web pages lately, please do.

If you'd like to be the Online Featured Artist please prepare 3 to 5 digital images of your work and contact [forumcontact@harlingenartforum.com](mailto:forumcontact@harlingenartforum.com)

We know you are all busy doing many things, please send an email to [forumcontact@harlingenartforum.com](mailto:forumcontact@harlingenartforum.com)

and tell us so we can include your accomplishments here.