

# Contemporary Art Month gets a new look

Revisions made to awards, exhibits, events

By Elda Silva  
STAFF WRITER

It was time for Miss CAM Antonio to go. Participation in the competition to wear the Contemporary Art Month crown had waned the past couple of years, “so we decided to retire it,” said Chris Sauter, co-chair of the CAM board.

That’s just one and — with apologies to anyone who aspired to the artist-made crown — probably the least important change to the month-long celebration of the city’s thriving art scene. CAM, which includes exhibits, art-related events and a studio crawl, officially begins Thursday with a kickoff party at Blue Star Contemporary.

The board organizes the CAM online calendar and puts on a handful of signature events, chiefly the CAM Perennial, an exhibit of works by San Antonio artists selected by a curator brought in from a part-



“SKINS,” an exhibit of works by Elizabeth Carrington, is at Mercury Project for Contemporary Art Month.

nering city and CAMX, an exchange that pairs an artist-run space from the same city as the CAM Perennial curator with a local artist-run space.

For Sauter, the best new

feature is a revamped CAMMIE Awards. In the past, awards presented in various categories all were decided by popular vote. This year, the board has tapped seven arts institutions —

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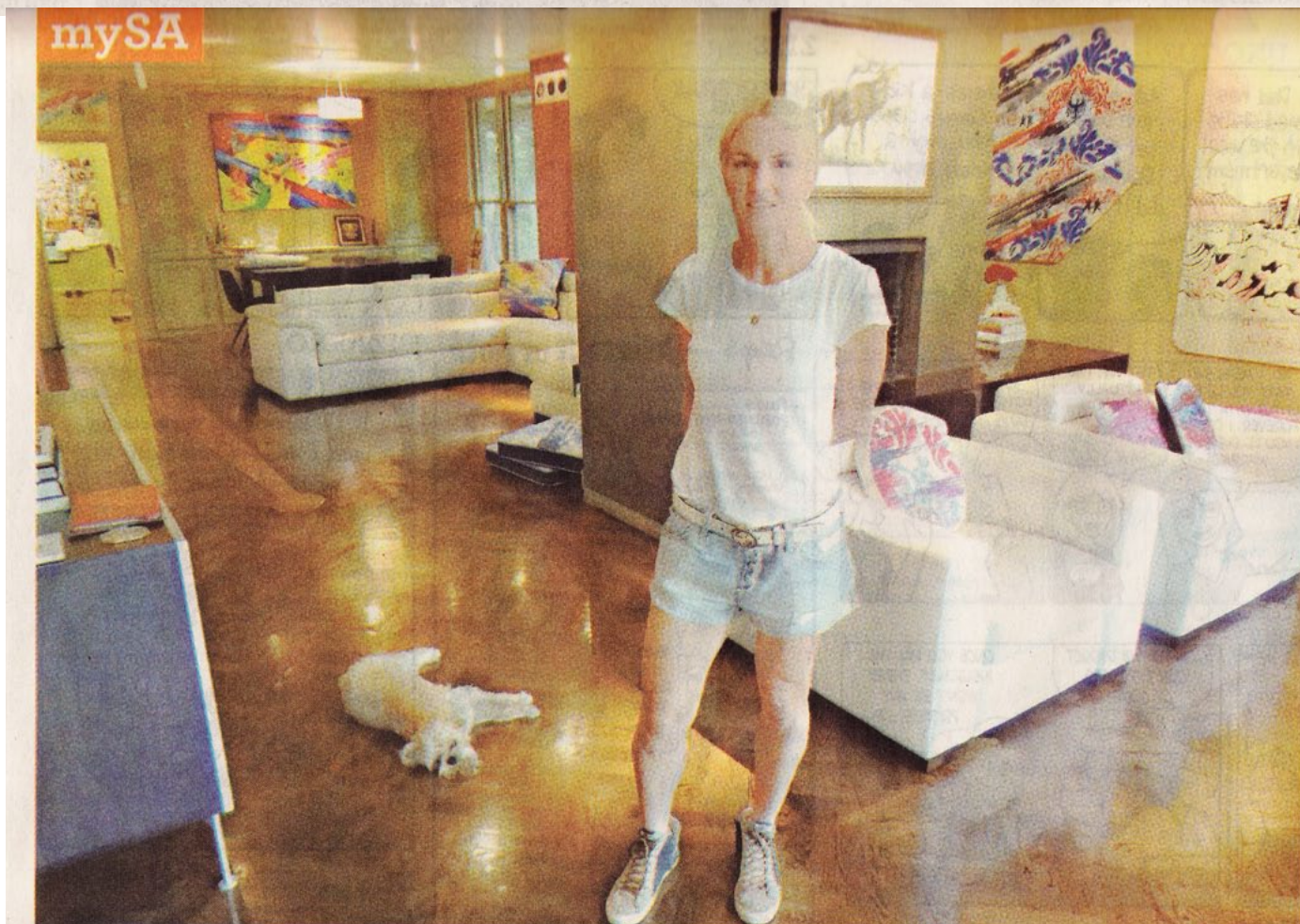
Slideshow: View more examples of the Contemporary Art Month.

the San Antonio Museum of Art, the McNay Art Museum, the Southwest School of Art, Blue Star Contemporary, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, the Carver Community Cultural Center and Artpace — to each present an award.

“Each organization is tasked with going to as many exhibitions as they can during Contemporary Art Month and choosing an artist or exhibition to be acknowledged for excellence,” he said. “It connects the art community with the art institutions in a direct way. And the award becomes more meaningful because it’s chosen by arts professionals who are not basing their award on who their friend is or who has the biggest network.”

The public, however, still will be able to weigh in on the Best of CAM award by voting online on the CAM website.

Another, perhaps inevitable, *Art continues on D6*



## CAM highlights

Contemporary Art Month officially opens with a kick-off party from 6-9 p.m. Thursday at Blue Star Contemporary in the Blue Star Arts Complex. Then it's off to the races for contemporary-art fans. Find a full calendar of events at contemporaryartmonth.com. Highlights to put on your must-see list.

**“Pretty Hurts”:** Former San Antonio resident Wesley Harvey borrowed a title from Beyoncé for his show of new ceramic sculpture and collage works. The exhibit examines ideas of deviance and the emphasis on physical perfection in the gay community. Works on view include a cup, saucer and spoon set dipped in gold glitter that pays homage to Meret Oppenheim’s “Object.” Reception 6-9 p.m. Thursday; through March 18. Hello Studio, 1420 S. Alamo St. 210-291-8640, hellostudiosa.com

**“SKINS”:** An exhibit of new works by Elizabeth Carrington, features frenetic pop-art flavored paintings, collage, textiles and furnishing. Reception 6-9 p.m. Thursday; through March 31 by appointment, Mercury Project, 538 Roosevelt Ave. 210-478-9133.

**“Magic Time Machine”:** Two-person show featuring Ana Fer-



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ARTISTS AT HOME

# Ford house sets a stage for art

Steve Bennett  
STAFF WRITER

## Carrington takes it from ho-hum to how fab

Elizabeth Walker Carrington's Olmos Park home has what she calls "the opposite of curb appeal."

The 1951 house, designed by renowned Texas architect O'Neil Ford, savior of La Villita and master planner of the Trinity University campus, sits at the end of a winding, narrow lane, with big houses on both sides and kids running around.

The first thing you see as the street dead-ends is the Carrington family cars, the slightly cantilevered roof of the garage visible through soaring trees. Off to one side is an innocuous gate that opens onto a stone stairway leading down to the front entry. Things get interesting as the steps curve around a multitiered fountain with semicircular brick pools to a limestone patio.

The house, from here, is rather ho-hum, with pale pinkish brick on the lower floor, gray vertical siding above.

The dark, wooden front door, with custom brass hinges, impresses; it was made by Lynn Ford, O'Neil's artisan brother, but needs some TLC.

And yet there's a feeling that you've entered another world, something O'Neil Ford was very good at creating.

"I remember the first time I walked down their steps into the hidden front patio and immediately felt I had escaped city chaos and entered a place where you could relax," said Whitney Schones of Whitney Schones Design, which focuses on renovating classic San Antonio homes. "It's a truly magical and appropriately hip home for Elizabeth and her family."

Elizabeth's husband, Clay Carrington, who shares an office with their 7- and 9-year-olds' playroom in a large section of the house set off the kitchen, said the family didn't go looking



Elizabeth Carrington stands in her art-filled Olmos Park living room, which is almost 68 feet long.

for a Ford house.

"The architect was a factor, but it wasn't the point," he said. "But it's because of the architecture that it's such a fabulous house."

The fabulous part comes early, when, passing through a small foyer with a soothing painting by Gary Schafter and Carrington's own graphic, electrically charged art and furniture, you enter the living room.

It's a wide rectangle, nearly 68 feet long, with rich parquet floors, celadon walls and floor-to-ceiling windows at one end that look out onto a nearly an acre of tiered backyard.

"We butt up against the Incarnate Word (High School) soccer field," Elizabeth Carrington said, "so it's great with the

### ExpressNews.com/ Lifestyle

Video: Elizabeth Carrington talks about her art, plus more photos.

kids to have access to that. There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood that are the same age that all play together."

A two-sided fireplace in the middle of the room breaks up the space into seating areas, with a large dining table at one end just off the kitchen. The Carringtons love to throw dinner parties.

Furnishings are minimal: simple, white leather couches and chairs and modular cabinets.

Two small nooks off the living

room offer sanctuary for TV watching and reading — Carrington's small library includes books on artist Robert Indiana, the history of photography and "1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die."

"The house also has some other quirks," the 46-year-old artist said. "We have an elevator, which we use to hide Christmas presents, and a walk-in vault, which is a sort of storage room."

Carrington's home also was an early example of sustainable building, which was a special concern of Ford's, featured in a 1952 House and Home magazine article on how architects could design a house to reduce the cost of air-conditioning.

The living room walls are painted a muted green to set off

the art, including of a light Sweeney ("Phor in a S fantastic oi Lloyd Wals abstract we Conor Har rington cal tion."

"I believe house shot decorated,

Carrington the Bay Ar from a bac design and work is yo graphic fle geometric ping color News and mySA.com | Sunday, September 18, 2016 | influences culture to art.

A former boarder, C Bowie frequ several vi Thin White behind the some snow hanging in

Text — song lyric and maga composer

"My ar kids and of the tim kick out d life as it u and reme spired by many dif want to in tic imagin porary vi

She re sports-re the AT& ing new v related — at Mercu Star Art

Her pr all over t custom f chairs ar



The entry hall features the artist's own art and furniture as well as a painting by Gary Schafter titled "Underc



the dining room

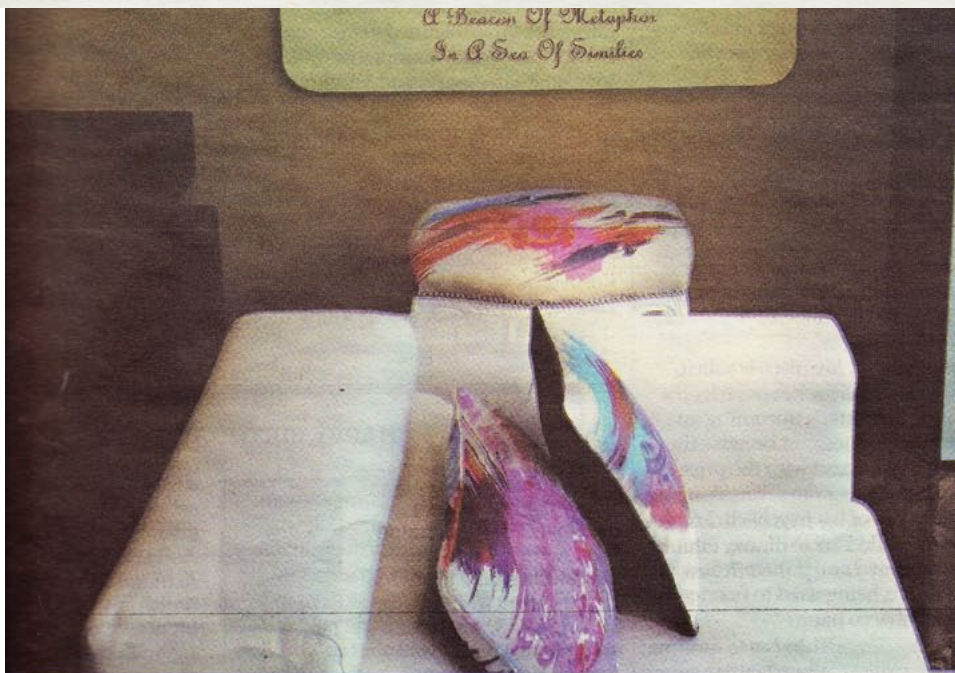
"For Fun and Only," a 2015 na with some anir inspired by a g ment on the da brant yellows, greens, it tells a mated images o T-Rex breathin tains, space vel couple of dude wings, one sitti

Another pie Trust a Hippy, print collage w stickers and ol

"I have been with collaging and pictures fr I think are coo Carrington sai bit of lighthea to question the don't like takin seriously wher

For all their hope is the ma runs through "active messag Alice Carringt dent of Alice C Art Advisory a mother-in-law.

"Each of Eli ings has a subl of hope for the tion," she said, viewer to pass gentler world t



Sweeney's "A Beacon of Metaphor in a Sea of Similies" hangs in the living room.

Lynn Ford, brother to O'Neil Ford, made the front door.

in her edgy fabrics.

"I've been watching Elizabeth's work for a long time, and it has always been a thoughtful presentation of what she has to say — often ironic," said Carolyn Parchman of PSG Art Gallery in San Antonio. "She has a story to tell and generally tells it with humor."

"Last year, I commissioned Elizabeth to do fabric for matching easy chairs we have in the living room — they are conversation starters. She does such a good job with a wide range of cool, clear, seductive colors that draw you in and make you happy. And the work is just so playful and energetic."

One work that really stands out in Carrington's home is in

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1.



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➔ The works of art the San Antonio Spurs are best known for are big, gold statues – championship trophies. However, the recently renovated AT&T Center makes a lesser-known aspect of the arena shine: a multitude of Texas-centric art.

"A lot of people think that art that was originally in the SBC Center is new art," says Lisa Garcia, who, along with Alice Carrington Foults, has curated the 200-plus collection since 2002. "It's just that they didn't see it. They've moved a lot of art from different locations."

That happened after the renovation that was completed just in time for this record-breaking season.

However, as Garcia explains, there are new additions to the collection.

Publicly viewable pieces include "Exit Signs," by Ethel Shipton; "Light It Up," by Elizabeth Carrington; "We're Good Right Here," by Ansen Seale; "Champions," by Rudy Choperena; "Hello Darlin' Map," by Cruz Ortiz; "The Sixth Man," by Guy Hundere and "Buckle Up," by Campbell Bosworth.

And there's more on the way.

Garcia said the AT&T Center just purchased the University of Texas at San Antonio's Veinticinco print portfolio, which features Latino and Latina artists.

"It includes living artists and a few deceased artists," Garcia explained. "It's a good representation

of the artistic community in

The proceeds of that sale go to

the art department.

As for the entire collection of San Antonio artists, it is not specific to the city and the area.

"All of the art is by artists who were in Texas at some point in their lives and the area."

So no matter where a Spurs fan is visiting to attend one of the games in the AT&T Center come from, there is art that will give them some local flavor.

"We put together a plan to curate the building's art to represent so it's representative of the place in the building, of the celebration and family."

mreagan@sacurrent.com



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### Elizabeth Carrington



Elizabeth Carrington was working in a San Francisco advertising agency when she developed a passion for screen printing. The artist uses the technique to create the bright, funky textiles that she juxtaposes against antique 15th century French-style chairs, ottomans and loveseats. “I love the idea of creating art that is functional,” says Carrington, who counts pop art icons Jeff Koons, Sofia Copolla’s Marie Antoinette and film director Baz Luhrmann among her inspirations. The result is unique seating that reflects her rebellious and slightly subversive style, which she refers to as “calming chaos.” Quite unlike anything else in the city, her mutable and fresh approach has certainly made her one to watch.

25 MOST BUZZED-ABOUT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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NEW LUXE

NEW LUXURIES 2010

Today's luxuries are about quality, not quantity. An heirloom-quality chair from SA designer Elizabeth Carrington is a worthy splurge. See what other local indulgences made this year's luxe list.



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SHOP FOR HEIRLOOMS

There's nothing glamorous about anything disposable, microwavable or canned. Shopping for the buy-one-get-one deal, without thought for quality or sustainability has come to define the "ugly American"—a frivolous buyer on the hunt for more stuff. Don't buy in.

Think instead to the heirlooms in your treasured collection and ask yourself: "Will my grandchildren value my neon pink Nike cap and collection of beer Koozies when I'm gone?" Probably not. While we must keep convenience, let's also invest in some things that will last: original artwork, crafted jewelry, artisan furniture, to name a few. San Antonio designer Elizabeth Carrington is among those who will save us from a

meaningless existence. Her custom fabric and chairs are part pop culture, part social statement and all cutting-edge elegance. Carrington designs and screenprints the canvas for her chair upholstery, with bright colors and brilliant themes, including love, the environment and decadence. Her designs "want to be pretty, sexy, cool—vain with a bit of irreverence—but above all, Pop," she says. Done and done.

No coupons here. Just great local finds and news from local boutiques, designers, bars and restaurants. Tidbits offers the "inside scoop for the gal about town," and delivers.

Etsy

Hail the rise of the popular Etsy—a morphing of eBay and a craft fair. The sites are online marketplaces for artisan pieces, services and collectors who cut out the middleman (and the overhead) of a storefront to sell directly to clients. Consider the recently opened Homerro, an "online shop of stripes, colors and basics" from Penny Lane founder Courtney Beauchamp (etsy.com/shop/homerro). Opened in the spring, Homerro is the place to find bright, eclectic upholstered furniture and bags. Pease Blossom Studio is another fave (etsy.com/shop/peaseblossomstudio). Here, find leather-bound journals and original linocut stationery made in SA.

DENVER LIFE

# home+design

## objects

These objects lend themselves to entertaining well. Setting the stage is almost as much fun as the party itself. Start with chairs that are conversation pieces. Choose appliances that make things easier in the kitchen; set a stylish table, casual or formal; invest in a wild entertainment system and handcrafted barware. Here are suggestions to get you started. Let your imagination fly.



**GRAFFITI CHAIRS** Elizabeth Carrington creates custom seating and furniture. Her chairs, benches and settees are screen printed, repurposed statement pieces that add whimsy, color, sophistication and sometimes a bit of inspiration with phrases such as "Look at that sky; life's begun" painted on the fabric. She considers the works "little commentators on the world and popular culture." Designed on the computer, each image is burned onto a screen and layered on textiles. Elizabeth Carrington Art and Design, 210.394.0715 [elledub.com](http://elledub.com)

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ELIZABETH CARRINGTON ART AND DESIGN



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I so love at-home entertaining clothes, such as Times Two's slightly retro velvet palazzo pants \$168, and silk taffeta top with lace overlay \$220, at À Bientôt.

Riding director Merrily Quincoces instructs English equitation, dressage, jumping and polo riding lessons for children and adults at the 26-acre Houston Polo Club. Opened in 1932, the club's grassy expanses, stables and barns are picture-perfect and heaven! Group or private, call for rates, 832.567.3202; ridinglessons@thehoustonpoloclub.com.



Vintage Taj Mahal 18K gold ring with natural orange zircon, price upon request, at Wayne Smith Jewels in Uptown Park.



Artist Barbara Hill's dizzy, spot-on pulp-poetry series is silkscreened on raw-cotton canvas pillows. An excerpt: "He moves closer as she presses her back into a Judd box — the heat of the metal matching her own." One can't resist. \$325, at Found.



Former San Franciscan, now San Antonio-based artist, snowboarder and pop-art-obsessed Elizabeth Carrington's antique tribute chairs with silkscreened art on canvas. "I love That Amber Glow" balloon side chair \$900, at Sloan/Hall.

in the LOOP

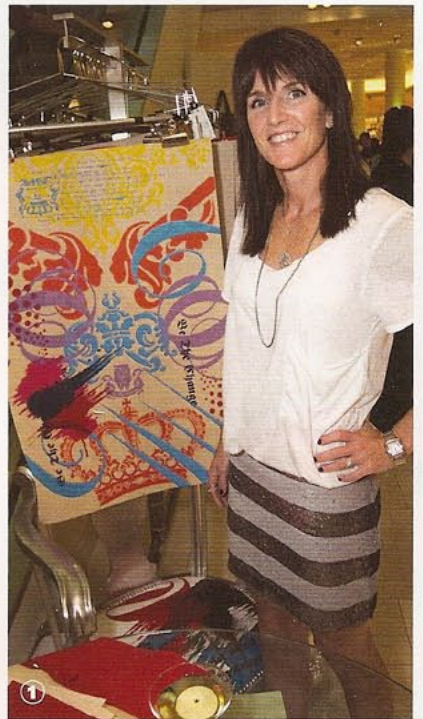
OUT & ABOUT

People Are Talking About...



Neiman Marcus-San Antonio celebration of the art scene. Guests to the La Parra for the latest runway show, exclusive trunk show featuring designers and Elizabeth Walker and San Antonio's elite culture event, set with food, refreshments and other activities.

...Fashionini at the Hotel Valencia. With looks from Miss Roxy Derek and jewelry from Cariños by Eydee, the VIPs and the fashion-conscious packed the house to benefit The Little Black Dress Society.



FASHION'S NIGHT OUT 1. ELIZABETH WALKER CARRINGTON ASHTIN PAIGE



Emilia Clarke as Khaleesi Daenerys Targaryen in HBO's *Game of Thrones*



Cole chair (\$1,300 and up) at NEST Modern, nestmodern.com



"Look to the Sky" bench (\$1,300) by Elizabeth Carrington, elledub.com



Charlee Pillow by Jamie Young (\$225) at Neiman Marcus, neimanmarcus.com



**ELIZABETH CARRINGTON**  
Artist

Unabashedly energetic, Elizabeth Carrington is a former pro snowboarder turned artist and graphic designer. Her style is eclectic, decorative and, though it may seem whimsical, highly skilled. The stunner, mom to 2- and 4-year-olds, has just finished a three-panel heirloom screen for a penthouse in Austin and is looking ahead to one of her biggest projects, a public art sculpture at San Antonio's Tom Slick Park. Carrington designs fabrics and will do a new line of furniture in the fall. Is there anything she doesn't do? Carrington is the quintessential cool chick who cites such inspirations as *The Beautiful Losers*, *The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets*, all her friends, her family, coworkers, Andy Warhol, David Bowie, pop culture and all signage. Phew! It's quite a list.

**1. Anything platinum blond**

Platinum blond hair, the color white, platinum metal. Inspired by Khaleesi Daenerys Targaryen, a character in HBO's *Game of Thrones*. This is just a piece of pop culture that I think is influencing and will influence design trends.

**2. Punk rock**

%@#! authority. This is a design trend because designers are social commentators. Sid Vicious, punk rock music, and live shows have always inspired me. Fashion with leather, spikes, brass knuckles, and safety pins are rocking the runways (Balmain, Burberry, Alexander McQueen).

**3. Graffiti**

I am dying to tag one of the brick walls in our house.

**4. Screen printing**

I have always been a child of Andy Warhol.

**5. Environmental and social responsibility**

Art and design change behavior and communities. Designers can create the message to the public.

**6. Crochet and anything woven**

I just like it. I like the dichotomy of something so crafty being so contemporary. I like all the hippie stuff.

**7. Anything at MOCA in Los Angeles**

Jeffery Deitch took over the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles last year, and as far as art heroes, he is mine.



**G** SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

# S.A. LIFE AND CULTURAS

SCARY MOVIES OLD AND NEW FOR HALLOWEEN PAGE 6C

## Beneath the surface, art evokes music, fashion, pop culture

Artist says works are more than 'glossy eye candy.'

BY STEVE BENNETT  
sbennett@express-news.net

If Elizabeth Walker Carrington's design vocabulary could be put into words, they might all begin with F: frantic, frenetic, frenzied.

But there is never a lack of control that those terms imply in the San Antonio designer/artist's work, exhibited through the end of November at the Parchman Stremmel Gallery in Olmos Park.

Peer a little more deeply into one of Walker Carrington's meticulously multilayered screen prints, with filigrees and slashing stripes and shard shapes in hyperventilating colors, and you'll discover a soul struggling to come to terms with the whole surface vs. substance dilemma — and ultimately deciding ... to buy a new pair of shoes.

"My work," she says, "is all about that big enigma of fashion and music and popular culture and media and beauty."

At 39, Walker Carrington, who was raised in the Bay Area, is of that front-end digital generation.

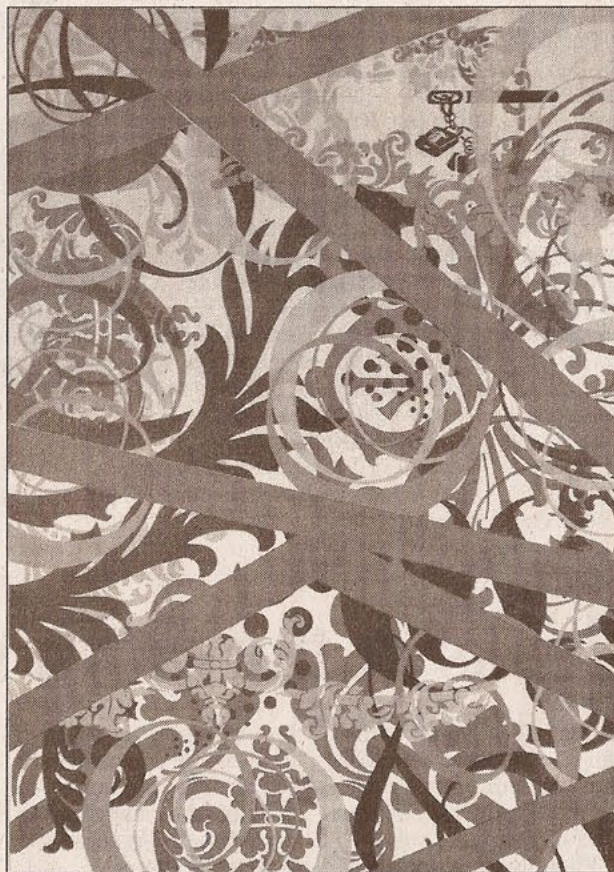


HELEN L. MONTOYA/hmontoya@express-news.net

Elizabeth Walker Carrington's chair is topped with her screened cushions.

coming of age during the Me Decade and the Clinton years. (It's not a surprise — although it's awesomely cool — to learn that this lean and athletic woman with glowing blue eyes was one of that pesky initial wave of snowboarders and competed for about five years on the X-Games circuit in the mid-'90s. And, she says, perhaps seriously, the only thing keeping her from being a total ski bum still is two young kids and the lack of a trust fund.)

Walker Carrington's background is in advertising and Web design. She has most creative design work as a



"Awkward and Difficult" is at Parchman Stremmel Gallery.

artist at every level in the ad business from freelance to boutique and big agencies for clients ranging from small hotels to Coors beer. Last year, she left Jill Design, one of San Antonio's most creative design agencies, to go out on

her own and devote more time to her art and her growing family.

Working on a computer (and printing painstakingly by hand on canvas, with acrylics), Walker Carrington blurs lines between art and design.

"I have always felt that design is art, and often is much cooler and more interesting than traditional media," she says.

She acknowledges her art might be perceived as "glossy eye candy" at first glance, but "on a deeper level it addresses topics like materialism, superficiality and love."

"One of my paintings doesn't cost nearly as much as a pair of shoes at Neiman's," Walker Carrington says.

She offers an anecdote from her life in advertising in San Francisco in the early '00s: "I remember a time when I was really depressed, down in the dumps, things weren't going well. So I went to Saks and bought a pair of Prada shoes. I paid something like \$350 for them, and it was worth every penny. In fact, it felt so good that I went back the next day and bought another pair. It felt even better." She hesitates. "I still have those shoes."

In addition to pop and conceptual art ("I would absolutely kill for a Warhol"), rock music plays a key role in Walker Carrington's latest work; in fact, a perusal of titles reads like an iPod playlist: "Public Image," "Hopelessly Decadent," "Underneath

It All," "Vanity Rules," "A Theory on Love" and, best of all, "Artificial Cherry." One could make the argument that a large work like "Awkward and Difficult" is a visual representation of pop music, say, a Police tune, with its classic rock, reggae and punk influences, playing through a pair of earpods.

David Bowie, who is, not incidentally, an icon in the fields of music, film, fashion and art, is "a major influence," says Walker Carrington, and she quotes Bowie lyrics on screened seat cushions that electrify refined antique chairs. Walker Carrington transforms these flea-market finds into found sculpture that you can sit on — "If you buy one," she says.

"I like the dichotomy of something really beautiful that looks a little defaced," she says. "I love graffiti art."

A new work that encapsulates a common theme is "Happy Shallow Beautiful III," which literally quotes from metal band Living Colour's 1989 Grammy-winning song "Cult of Personality": "I Exploit You ... Still You Love Me."

"In the end, I'm just trying to come up with something that is as beautiful as it can be," she says.

**TOP PICKS**  
OCTOBER 7-13, 2009



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### Elizabeth Walker Carrington

**ART OPENING** Artist Elizabeth Walker Carrington has taken to adorning furniture with whimsical painted designs and the results are quite special. She admits that her work might pass for eye-candy, but there's an obvious subtext with this project. While one layer suggests vintage wallpaper patterns, another seemingly haphazard layer brings to mind a graffiti-covered construction site. Even the street element is meticulously executed, and with clever pop-culture references (lyrics from David Bowie's "Golden Years" are tagged on a dining room chair) Carrington's work would fit perfectly into a scene from Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette*. Free, 5pm, Parchman Stremmel Galleries, 110 West Olmos Dr., San Antonio, psgart.com



# New Arte Nuevo: San Antonio 2008

a juried competition

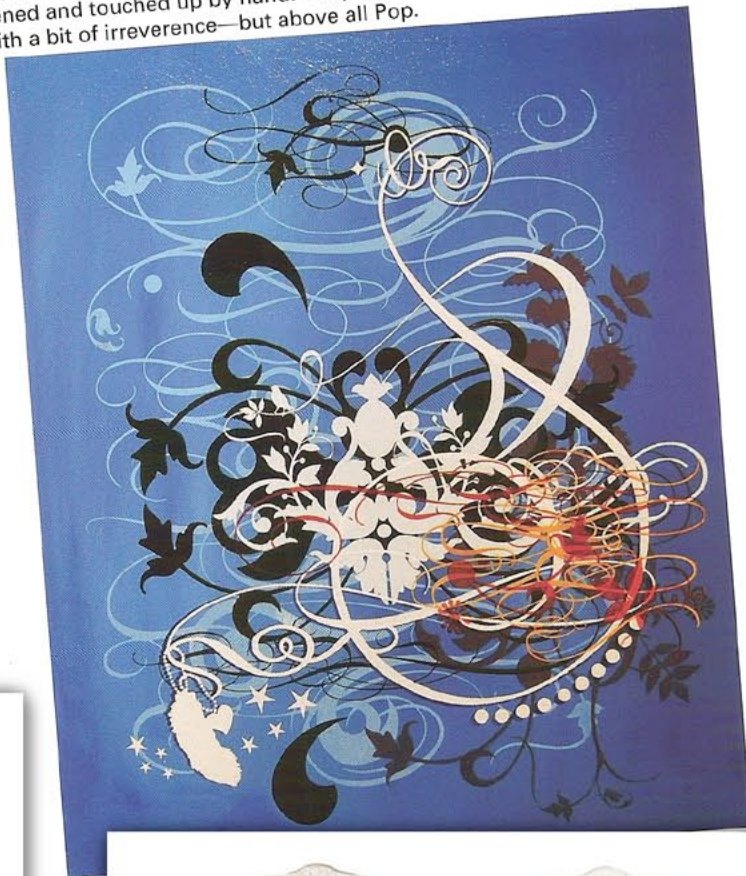
Elizabeth Walker **Carrington**

San Antonio, Texas

*Blueswirl with Charm*, acrylic and screenprint on canvas, 24x20", 2007

This work is about marrying two of the things I love most—design and art. I have always felt that design art is often much cooler and more interesting. This series serves as superficial eye candy but at the same time is meticulous about color, shape and design.

My work is a tribute to Andy Warhol's statement Pop Art is about "liking things". The pieces are a blend of design and type, lyrics and images from popular culture mixed, layered and silhouetted. They are designed on a computer and then silkscreened and touched up by hand. They want to be pretty, sexy, cool—vain with a bit of irreverence—but above all Pop.



elizabeth walkercarrington | 21

ELIZABETH  
WALKER  
CARRINGTON



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# SAN ANTONIO

MAGAZINE

**ELIZABETH WALKER  
CARRINGTON**

"I have never lived in a place that shuts down for a week to party!" exclaims Carrington, a California transplant. Her cascarones exhibit the slick pop culture references that show up in Carrington's fine art and graphic design. Inspired by the "anarchy" and carefree attitude of Fiesta, Carrington created colorful slogans to match the party moods.



APR



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Elizabeth's favorite "disciplines" were Big Air, Boarder X (Cross), and Slopestyle. "Big Air is a really large jump," says Elizabeth, "like 60 feet or so, and you are judged on the tricks you do. Slopestyle is when you are up in the mountain in one of the parks and you do a series of small jumps. Boarder X is a race. Six people go out of the gate at once. There're flags and different obstacles. You're racing for time. You go through a series of heats to the final heat."

Snowboarding was declared an Olympic sport in 1994, but according to Walker, "The disciplines I was in were never part of the Olympics."

Walker continued snowboarding and participated in Xtreme competitions and XGames events for seven years. When she was competing regularly, the Rugby Company sponsored her. "They made surfboards and started making snowboarding clothes and snowboards."

Something else that attracted her to the competition was the opportunity to travel. "Some of my friends were going to Alaska, Europe and New Zealand and that was appealing to me," she says.

"Switzerland was a trip I will never forget. We hiked out to a mountain at Verbier called the Bec des Rosses... that was the most scared I have ever been snowboarding. It is indescribable how steep that place is."

While she was snowboarding, she also made time for her other passion: graphic design. Elizabeth designed snowboards and other promotional items, including T-shirts for such companies as Pepsi Cola and Mountain Dew.

In 1999, she participated in her last competition. "There's only so many years you can do that," she says. She moved to San Francisco to "get into graphic design more," finding a job in advertising.

In 2004, she moved to San Antonio.

Elizabeth married Clay Carrington in 2005 and they are the proud parents of son Walker. Today, Elizabeth works as a graphic designer (see her portfolio at [www.elledub.com](http://www.elledub.com)) and regularly shows her work at galleries. She has worked on projects ranging from packaging for beer, banners for the U.S. Ski Team and brochures for luxury hotels. Some of her designs for Coors can be seen on grocery shelves across the country.

Excluding last winter (when she was pregnant), Elizabeth has managed to get up to the mountains every year. Her all-time favorite place to snowboard Snowbird, Utah; her second is Squaw Valley, Calif.

Despite a blown knee, torn cartilage and cracked bones, Elizabeth, who has undergone surgery and physical therapy, is raring to continue in the sport she loves and to share it with her son: "I can't wait to teach Walker to ski, snowboard and love the mountains. I fantasize about us living in the mountains in the winter—I always say that I will be a ski-bum again!"



YOUR SAN ANTONIO MAGAZINE SINCE 1999

# Scene In S.A.

The San Antonio skin



## MAVERICKS

UNBRANDED NEWS. UNBRANDED VIEWS.

### Queen of the Hill

**IN 1997, TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD ELIZABETH WALKER** boarded a helicopter in Valdez, Alaska, to take part in the King of the Hill Xtreme Competition. The pilot flew her and a few other snowboarders to the top of a mountain and dropped them off. Their mission? Freestyle down the mountain. Walker won the event that day, earning her a place in the annals of snowboarding history.

The term "Xtreme Sport" was coined to apply to activities having a high level of inherent danger or difficulty that involved speed, height, a high level of physical exertion, and highly specialized gear or spectacular stunts. Competitive events for such adrenaline-inducing sports began in earnest in the mid-1990s.

Walker, who was born in Boston, grew up in the South and Midwest, and eventually moved to San Francisco where her father ran the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* and her mother immersed her in the worlds of art and media. A gifted artist, Elizabeth graduated from the University of Arizona in 1993 with a degree in fine arts. Her parents had moved to San Antonio when she was in college after her father became publisher of the *San Antonio Express-News*. Elizabeth moved to the Alamo City and did an internship in graphic design for two San Antonio magazines, *Fiesta* and *Images*.

However, she felt a call for something more, and moved to Utah to pursue her other passions—snowboarding and wanderlust.

"I learned to ski when I was quite young. My parents loved to ski and we often went to Lake Tahoe," she says. "My older brother was the first to snowboard, probably in 1985 or 86...he and his friends were big skate boarders, and they pieced together snowboards and went up the mountains with them. It was fun."

"After college, I knew I wanted to live in the mountains and snowboard every single day. I moved to Utah where my brother was. I found a night job and was snowboarding every day and met a bunch of people who were competing and doing film and photo work and I fell in with them... I'd tag along to contests. By the second season, I was doing it pretty consistently... and it [getting into competitions] grew from that."



Cocktails with: Elizabeth Walker Carrington

We can't get enough of local artist-of-the-moment Elizabeth Walker Carrington.

**Tidbits:** Do you have any shows coming up in January?

**EWC:** We just got back from West Texas and did Artwalk in Alpine. The city of San Antonio just took a few pieces for City Hall and Municipal Plaza. There was just a 'ribbon cutting' ceremony for a public art piece I did, "Nessie", for Tom Slick Park. I am working on a few commissions right now and working my day job, graphic design.

**Tidbits:** Perfect romantic drink to sip in your [Blitzkrieg chair](#)?

**EWC:** A glass of Silver Oak, or a blood orange Old Fashioned.

**Tidbits:** Most comfortable piece of furniture in your house?

**EWC:** A big club chair that I sit in every morning I can and have a cup of coffee before everyone wakes up. It's the most relaxing moment of the day.

**Tidbits:** Any celeb clients?

**EWC:** I'm super huge! Jennifer Aniston just bought a piece. Ha!

**Tidbits:** What's spring's hot decor color?

**EWC:** Still red.

**Tidbits:** What clothing designer inspires you?

**EWC:** All Saints.

**Tidbits:** Fave museum in the world?

**EWC:** Eeeek- there are too many. I have a special place in my heart for the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. I. Love. Van Gogh...and Tate Modern in Britain.



**Tidbits:** After a long day of designing, I unwind at...

**EWC:** I have a 2 and 4 year old...so there is very little 'unwinding.' We go to sushi a lot, but I have to say I am pretty lucky because my mom and dad are amazing cooks and always have a good bottle of wine open. So most of the time we end up over there. Nothing quite beats a home cooked meal.

**Dying to see some of Elizabeth's designs in person?** There are just a few spots left at our intimate farm-to-table supper featuring some of SA's hottest artists (including Elizabeth) and foodies.

tidbits...  
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