



CITY OF DALLAS

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April 27, 2017

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Media and Public Contact:

Enrique Fernández Cervantes,
BHCC - Visual Arts Coordinator / Curator
(214) 670-8723 enrique.fernandez@dallascityhall.com



Bath House
CULTURAL CENTER



Office of Cultural Affairs
CITY OF DALLAS

The genre of Magic Realism is the source of inspiration for new gallery show

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

The Extraordinary Tale: Magic Realism in Art

Curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes

May 6-June 3, 2017

Reception: Saturday, May 6, 2017 (7-9 PM)

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center presents *The Extraordinary Tale: Magic Realism in Art*, a mixed media exhibition that explores the artistic genre of Magic Realism, from May 6 to June 3, 2017. A reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 7 to 9 PM, featuring live music by Mack Price. The exhibition, reception, and all other events related this program are free and open to the public.

The Extraordinary Tale explores and celebrates the technical, aesthetic and thematic elements that are associated with the genre of Magic Realism. Although most commonly associated with Latin American 20th Century authors, the artistic style of magic realism also applies to different forms of arts, such as photography, painting, film, and other media. The genre usually depicts a world that is anchored in everyday reality, but is also populated by settings or subjects that possess overtones of fantasy and wonder.

An important characteristic of magic realism is that the viewer must accept the unreal as a natural part of reality. Other art styles, such as surrealism, symbolism, or fantasy art, rely on the creation of hypothetical worlds that are used to accommodate the imaginary. Magic realism, on the other hand, uses the real world as the setting and any incredible components of the story are presented naturally as if they were always part of that world.

Magic realism developed as an art movement after World War I. For many years thereafter, a few European and American artists fashioned a representational art that was mixed with elements of fantasy. The genre plays with our perception and expectations by depicting unanticipated content in what might appear to be a common or ordinary scene. Magic realist artists include dreamlike and illusory elements in their art, but their creations always remain within the realm of the possible.

Author Matthew Strecher gives, perhaps, the best simple definition of Magic Realism when he describes the genre as "what happens when a highly detailed, realistic setting is invaded by something too strange to believe."

The exhibition includes works by artists from Texas, California, North Carolina, Mexico, and El Salvador. The show features art by: **Rita Barnard, Tatyana Bessmertnaya, Paul Bond, Jacque Forsher, Ginger Fox, Maria Teresa García Pedroche, Chema Gil, Rebecca Guy, Cesar Mateos, Chuck McCarter, Rusty McDonald, William Battle Montgomery, Rebeca Navarro, Sharon Neel Bagley, Sharon O'Callaghan Shero, Silvia Parra, Jorge Rey, Brenda Robson, Shawn Saumell, Armando Sebastian, and Jeanne Sturdevant.**

The exhibition was curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes, Visual Arts Coordinator and Curator of the Bath House Cultural Center and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs.

Press Photographs: To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit the online Press Room at <http://www.bathhousemedia.com>.

Photographs may only be used for promotional, educational, or non-commercial purposes.

Location and hours: The Bath House Cultural Center is located on the eastern shore of White Rock Lake at the end of Northcliff Dr. off of Buckner Blvd. at **521 E. Lawther, Dallas, TX 75218**. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM. The center is open until 10:00 PM on nights with theatre performances. For general information about cultural programs at the Bath House Cultural Center, please call (214) 670-8749 or visit the center's website at <http://www.bathhousecultural.com/>

The Bath House Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The center is dedicated to fostering the growth, development and quality of multi-cultural arts within the City of Dallas. The center emphasizes innovating visual and performing arts as well as other multi-discipline events throughout the year. Funding for the Bath House Cultural Center is provided by the City of Dallas, with additional support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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