

First Friday Roundup

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Unlikely Events, Brent Summerhouser

One of the most useful and widely used mnemonics is the memory palace, a place or series of places in your mind where you can store information that you need to remember. Artist Brent Summerhouser has long been fascinated with the function of memory. When his grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he began a creating work that dealt with the process of making memory and thought tangible. His new series of sculptures confronts the viewer with the memory palace of a mind in disorder.

"Someone with a disorder's mental house is misbehaving, and things are happening that shouldn't be happening, like the floor is coming up, or a chair is sinking into the floor," Summerhouser says. These mental aberrations take physical form in his work, like his sculpture of a tornado made out of wood flooring.

In keeping with depicting invisible forces, the show also contains a number of Summerhouser's graphite drawings made using a vacuum wind tube the artist invented, in which he places a sheet of drawing paper and a number of pencils tips. The resulting tornado of pencils creates a drawing of wind made by the wind.

Brett Wesley Gallery 1112 Casino Center Blvd.

CAC 21st Annual Juried Show, various artists

For its *21st Annual Juried Show*, the Contemporary Arts Center issued its first nationwide call, seeking digital submissions only, and received a record number of more than 500. The difficult task of going through this daunting assembly of work was given to award winning artist Jeff Gauntt, this year's guest juror. It was his first time judging work off of a purely digital representation. He says it was "at times frustrating judging works on the basis of JPEGs that weren't always of the highest quality. I was really looking for an emotional and intellectual impact from the works. I tend to respond to work that is a little more direct in the way that it's made, and I can tell the artist really intended it to be that way."

Winnowed down to 41 artists, the exhibition still represents works from a wide range of mediums, evidenced in artist Troy Gillett's reclaimed wood sculpture of an opened book titled "Ritorno" and Linda Alterwitz's digital photograph "Downpour," portraying a hazy woodland engulfed in a torrent of light. "I'm really interested in how



"Red Column," by Brent Summerhouser



Troy Gillett's "Ritorno"



works installed in the space relate to one another," Gauntt says. "I want the installation to reflect my feelings about selecting this work."

CAC inside the Arts Factory, 107 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 120

Funk City fashion show at "N.O.I.S.E."

Promoters of First Friday afterparty "N.O.I.S.E." are trying their hand at a fashion show featuring the brand new lines from 12 local up-and-coming designers, while also providing space for a bevy of artistic vendors such as Altered Nation Designs and Undone Photography. The models will be strutting and posing their unique apparel in front of a backdrop by DJ Carey C's customized video graphics. In addition to the hip haute couture clothing on the catwalk, Funk City, run by fashion designer Amber McCracken, invites guests to clean out their closets and bring quality fashion items they no longer wear to swap with one other -- or simply to make room for some of the new designs of Las Vegas's rising fashion talent. Any leftover clothing will be donated to the local charity Safe Nest, dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. "I've heard of it done a couple times in Vegas, mostly at churches, and I thought why not try something different," McCracken says. "I have a lot of clothing I don't wear anymore, and maybe other people have the same problem. Either way, Safe Nest will benefit."

The Aruba 1215 Las Vegas Blvd, South. 10 p.m.

2010 RFP -- Visions in Las Vegas, various artists

Last month's *2010 RFP* exhibition was good enough for another month at Alios -- and good enough for a second mention on this page. Guests are invited one final time to visit the "designers playground," showcasing the first-time creative responses of architects and interior designers with recession-triggered free time. "I don't think any of them have ever shown their creative side outside of their usual industry," says Curator Todd VonBastiaans. "The gallery is a very different setting for them."

Works in the show take inspiration from a variety of sources, from Dwayne Eshenbaugh's digital collage journaling his experience running a marathon, to Robert Kilian's nature-inspired steel bench laser, inscribed with a cellular pattern resembling a cobweb or honeycomb and imbuing the industrial material with a fragile beauty. Lighting designer Brian Thorton's distinctive lamps take inspiration from the sleek sports jackets of Chanel, where detail is reserved for the interior lining. Likewise in Thorton's work, the decoration hides inside -- an oft ignored area in typical lighting design. Mike Martin's whimsical cardboard room dividers also take a cue from the fashion industry, with cutouts shapes inspired by 1960s floral graphics and Louis Vuitton iconography. Martin's piece leaves nothing to waste, suspending the floral cutouts as curious ornaments from the ceiling.

Alios 1217 S. Main St.

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Misfit top by Amber McCracken