

# News Clip

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## Community

### 'One' exhibit, 40 artists, haunting venue

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Elder Street gallery owner Terrence Boggs thought Houston's art community needed a different format for exhibiting its range of works. He wanted one that drew together artistic diversity and cut across the "regional isolationism" endemic to a sprawling city.

Rather than organizing an art crawl among several art galleries, Boggs' Elder Street is hosting a single-venue event titled "One." That's one show, one week and one piece displayed per artist, with 40 are participating.

The artists are local. Many of them have international reputations and are rarely shown here, Boggs said.

Houston's art community tends to be a bit regionalized, he said, which is due in part to the city's sprawl.

"Rarely do artists exhibit

together," he said, and when they do, it's typically a handful of them at a time.

To have 40 artists in one show is rather unusual, he said.

Sarah Hazel of Morningside Place works in oils and will be at the show.

"We're one community and yet the Houston art scene is divided into different areas of town," she said.

Artists might know each other or know of each other but they might not have met, she said.

Photographer Sergio Santos of the Memorial area is looking forward to sharing the evening with both his colleagues and the public. As an artist, he sometimes feels isolated from both, he said, and he welcomes the chance for interaction.

Artists need to be connected because creativity is often a solitary pursuit, said artist Lilibeth Andre of Meyerland. When they do come together,

artists can share their tribulations, creative ups and downs, technique and business nuts and bolts with "someone who understands where you're coming from," she said.

Houston's arts community is "huge," Andre said, and it produces a full spectrum of media, styles and artistic influences.

And while the artists are considered local, they originally come from many cultures and backgrounds, which also helps broaden what is available here, Andre said.

Acrylic and watercolor artist Bridgett Vallery of the River Oaks area said Houston "is more of an art community than we think."

And it's developing. Small galleries exhibiting "affordable, original art" are opening and clustering in areas throughout the metropolitan area, not just near the Museum District, said Vallery, who was gallery director for the Watercolor Art Society of Houston.

The Heights and Washington Avenue have become especially popular for newer galleries, Boggs said.

Houston is rather "inven-



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tive" when it comes to alternative exhibition space, Boggs said. Among the more unusual locales he has noticed here are car dealerships, church halls and beauty salons.

In that vein, Elder Street Gallery is located in a renovated hospital built in 1856 that was renamed Jeff Davis Hospital in the 1920s. Internet sources on paranormal properties consider the building Houston's most haunted structure.

The upcoming "One" exhibit's single-venue format has a practical advantage over art crawls between galleries, Hazel said. There's no need to hop in and out of a hot car.

#### On View

Show:  
"One"

Opens:  
7-10 p.m., July 21

Runs:  
through July 28

Venue:  
Elder Street  
Gallery  
1101 Elder St.  
(near downtown)

Info:  
www.elderstreet  
tartist.com