

## Oil be damned: HOUSTON ART

Who would have thought that Houston, Texas was a hotbed of underground talent? Let's face it, it doesn't look promising. Houston is a town originally built on oil money and the 42nd President of the United States has his ranch down the road in Crawford – surely enough to quell any cultural stirrings before they get on their feet. But Houston has a thriving underground art scene, which is fuelled by such local institutions as the \$80 million art space The Beck Building (built by the minimal architect Raphael Moneao), The Glassell School (with teachers like Francesca Fuchs and Frazier Stables) and a multi-millionaire art patron in the shape of former Ze Records honcho Michael Zilkha. Smaller galleries like Artscan and Fotofest continue to push groundbreaking shows, and the Contemporary Arts Museum (CAM) showcases major artists like Bill Viola, Cindy Sherman, Philip Taaffe and Matthew Barney throughout the year.

With one eye on the city's galleries, characters, hangouts and dropouts, Dazed called on local artist Al Saulso to get a handle on Houston and to discover what the hell happens when Dubya's tucked up safely in bed with his cocoa and WMD manual. AP

### THE ARTISTS

#### Rogelio Rendon

"After graduating from University of Houston, Rendon moved to Mexico in search of ideas for his classic furniture designs. In return, Mexico gave him inspiration for much more than just his work. After his stint there, he moved to Paris before moving back to what he loved best – Houston. He now lives and works in Texas producing some of the finest, intricately detailed furniture the state has to offer."

#### Karyn Olivier

"She's the sweetest. A native New Yorker who came to Houston for the Core program at the Museum of Fine Arts. Since then she has made an impact on Houston like no one else. I love her technique and style. She only deals with space. Kind of like Richard Serra, but much better."

#### Frazier Stables

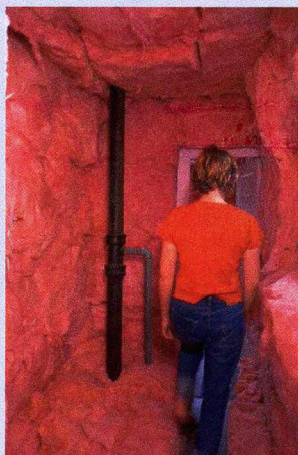
"Born in Ireland, Stables came to Houston seeking a new art start. Photography and video installation is his big thing. Now, he is lead professor of photography at Rice University. I remember when I would ask for some of his artwork, he would just give it to me. He's awesome."



Karyn Olivier



Rogelio Rendon



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### THE ICONS



#### Michael Zilkha

"The sponsor. He hung out with the likes of Andy Warhol and Basquiat and all the people in the 80s that did the important stuff. He was the owner of Ze records and helped people like Blondie and DNA become worldwide stars. I think he was about the coolest cat in that joint."



#### Laurie Newendorp

"The ultimate underground poet in and around Houston. She is not afraid of any subject and will tell you to never be afraid of your feelings. Check out her play *Stepbitch*. So scary and so cool."



#### Harry Sheppard

"This man is a god in jazz. He played with Miles Davis in the 60s and Herbie Hancock in the 70s. I'm so glad to know this man. Every time I visit, he has a hug waiting for me. Now that's love, dude!"



#### Carol Bertrand

"She was a hippie before they even found the Summer of Love. Now, at the ripe old age of 77, she's fighting to save the earth by reserving acres of land in her name so that builders can't build on it. 'Keeping the grass green,' as she calls it."