

Real Detroit Weekly

ARTS & CULTURE » STAGE & CANVAS

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Stage & Canvas

by [Robert del Valle](#)[click to enlarge](#)

Just Like The Movie Houses We Used To Know

Another reminder that Pam Grier is showing up at the Redford Theatre in February. And here's an equally welcome bit of news regarding the area's beloved retroplex – White Christmas, the 1954 holiday classic and the first feature made in VistaVision, will be screened on 12/20 and 12/21. Plenty of extra treats being planned as well: Tom & Jerry will have a truly animated Night Before Christmas. Seasonal songs will be played on the theatre's mighty fine Wurlitzer (which is in MUCH better shape than that building downtown); Santa's gonna drop by, so bring a camera – and bring a few other things for a food drive being held in the lobby. More: [redford theatre.com](http://redfordtheatre.com)

Bright Objects from Warmer Climes

[click to enlarge](#)

Fragments from The Past: Islamic Art from the Collection of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, a current exhibit at UMMA, will be a two-fold benefit if you choose to go.

First, it will draw your attention to the fact that there IS a first-rate museum of antiquities in Ann Arbor and it certainly deserves a little more recognition. Second, the UMMA exhibit is an exquisite showcase of items from Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran that celebrates the painstaking skill applied by artisans to the objects of everyday life. They illustrate not only the fabric of history, but the interplay of function and form in a traditional style. And the designs and patterns comprise a vivid testament to a past that is still very much a part of the present. More: umma.umich.edu

Other Gifts

The Arab Spring has not yet entered into a moribund or (worse) fatal winter of total discontent, and there is still a great deal being written and being made by those individuals who are still committed to the dream. The Arab American National Museum in Dearborn is now giving credence to this with two exceptional offerings. Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings is a breathtaking tapestry and one of the finest examples of a multimedia exhibit we've ever seen. Freedom of speech merges with artistic expression to capture the anger, elation, frustration and hope of these revolutions through call-and-response chants, graffiti, video, blog postings, cartoons, music, photography, posters and even puppetry. Believe us, this is a much more insightful study of current history than the sound bites offered up by the western media. Recommended also is John Halaka: Landscapes of Desire, an exhibit of 23 drawings inspired by and echoing the 75th anniversary of an event that still troubles Palestine, Israel and (indeed) the entire world. The images were produced with rubber stamped words that define the forms, textures and tones of the landscapes. The repeated stamping of the words creates a visual mantra that compels the viewer to "remember," "resist," "return," and "rebuild" while preparing to "forgive." That last word alone makes this exhibit ring with hope for the future. More: arabamericanmuseum.org.



William Castle Missed His Chance

Has it really been two years since Adam Owen Layne, VATO and The Scarab Club sent us that polite email about the Emerging Artist Series? And has it really been two years since that wonderfully worded epistle informed us that a monthly showcase at that acclaimed arts organization would draw well-deserved attention to a coterie of worthy and handpicked talents? 24 one-night events that saw creative men and women given the rare chance to display their works in their own spotlighted solo shows and garner some of the public's attention? Well, evidently it has been two years. And now that anniversary kudos have been duly accorded, let's share the good news that on 12/19 this rolling caravan will have a Group Show that also affords you, reader, the chance to fill a few stockings and adorn a few walls with exceptional pieces of art. It will be an impressive inventory, especially since it's coming from Julie Fournier, Joel Hernandez, Bridgett Davenport, Shadia, Lindsey Harnish, Rick Cronn, Diane Irby, Katherine Boswell, Rob Weir and Austin J. Brady. We've praised all these people in the past and our admiration (and yours, we trust) has not diminished in the least. Be advised also that Dr. Sketchy and Lushes LaMoan will be in the house that same evening. 217 Farnsworth (near the DIA) and also there's scarabclub.org.

Holi-DAZE!

The Eastern Market is one of the city's jewels and is also (in its own way) a remarkable example of how history, culture and art can be complemented and enhanced by an urban commercial establishment. The Eastern Market Holiday Open House will take place on 12/22 and we advise you to bundle up and arrive early. Every store, eatery, stall, restaurant, coffeehouse, bar and food truck will be bursting with seasonal cheer and enticing treats. Plus, the trip will afford you a chance to check out Salt & Cedar, Michigan Artisans, The Detroit Mercantile Company, The Red Bull House of Art and The Inner State Gallery. All are nearby and all are Grinch-free.

M-1

Several people who attended FacetoFace at Michelle Tanguay's downtown studio were thoughtful enough to send us info about Detroit Collective, the current show at Woodward Crossing. An impressive collective of designers, painters and photographers, this modest downtown space also succeeds in being a viewer-friendly and relaxed overview of the city's past cultural climates and its much-admired history for innovative visions. Check it out soon, won't you? 313.875.4707 | RDW

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