

Gallery Beat

by F. Lennox Campello

The Washington Project for the Arts/Corcoran (or WPA/C as it is better known), is a large artist organization headquartered at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in DC.

A while back I was retained by the WPA/C to curate a show for them, and by the time that this issue of the paper hits the street, the exhibition will be up. I am to be assisted by two young WPA/C interns: Sandra Fernandez and Adrian Schneck.

Because this show is being exhibited at the three separate buildings that comprise the Warehouse Theatre and Galleries complex, a total of seven separate spaces are available, and all are being used, and thus the exhibition title: **Seven**.

In putting this exhibition together, I hope to have brought out to light all the many issues, baggage, ideas, agendas, nepotism, and a complete lack of objectivity that a curator brings to such a massive job as this was. As well as a lot of hard work and a good work ethic to deliver a show that will make all involved proud to be part of it. All artwork and artists being displayed were picked by me.

I will also try to handcuff some of my fellow commercial gallerists and, once the exhibition is open, take them around and have them discover (hopefully) some new talent from our area. It is my hope that the final selection of artists is a good blend of some well-known area WPA/C artists as well as an exhibition opportunity for WPA/C talent that we don't see as often.

To start, I decided to focus each of the seven spaces on a specific theme, genre or subject... sort of. I also brought to this selection process (and to one space) the commercial acumen of a for-profit gallerist. As such (for example), I selected the artwork that will go in the main gallery space (co-located with the Warehouse Cafe) to be that work that I feel represented the best compilation of all the remaining spaces and also stands the best chance (in my sole opinion) of being sold.



Artist: **Joey P. Mánlapaz**

The exhibition boasts of having some of the best known Washington area artists. Names like Manon Cleary, Sam Gilliam, Chan Chao, as well as rising young starts like John Lehr. I also dipped deeply into the slide repository and picked artists who were new to me and have rarely exhibited in the DC area. Artists such as Samantha Wolov (who is doing a very provocative photojournal of the sexual antics of her friends), Susan Jamison, who decorates her sensual figures like modern Picts, Michael Fitts, whose stunning paintings defy belief in what's real and what is faux.

I hope that you all get a chance to go visit the exhibition. I truly intend for this exhibition to be provocative and fresh, but in the end it still remains one person's opinion and the trite saying that art is in the eye's of the beholder never applied more aptly than in this case: My eyes and thus my **Seven**.

Seven is on display at the seven different spaces that comprise the Warehouse Theater, Café & Galleries, located across the street from the new Convention Center. Their address is 1021 7th Street and they can be reached at 202/783-3933 or on the web at www.warehousetheater.com and the exhibition will be on display through September 9, 2005.

