**ARTS**

A sublime installation to go with surreal fun

The Contemporary Austin offers artist events for summer

By Jeanna Claire van Ryn

The bulky blue grey rope tumbles in massive swoop-like undulations down the amphitheater at Laguna Gloria. At the shore, one rope wave continues its downward flowing journey, jutting out like a stream of lava onto a wooded barge-like platform right to the edge of the lagoon.

Orly Geenger's "Current" is the fourth site-specific installation commissioned by the Contemporary Austin for its Laguna Gloria site since the museum (the entity formed after the merger of the Austin Museum of Art and Arbhouse) refocused its artist mission last year.

Geenger chose the amphitheater for her project on a visit last year. And in doing so, the New York-based artist has upped the ante, invigorating the Laguna Gloria site with a surprising and elegant artistic reconsideration of a very prominent feature on the 13.8 acre lakeside grounds. (Visitors are welcome to walk in, around and even on Geenger's installation as well as explore the barge.) As she has in her other ambitious and labor-intensive installations, for "Current" Geenger used recycled lobster rope that she purchased from fishermen - a deliberate gesture containing both economic and social purpose.

In her Brooklyn studio, Geenger weaves, crochets and knots the twisted rope - an unforgiving, hard-to-wrangle material - into organic forms, teasing out sensitive shapes that are at once very painterly and also thoroughly muscular. Geenger succeeds in subtly combining techniques that suggest women's traditional handwork with the enormous scale of artwork favored by so many post-war male artists.

Last year, Geenger used 1.4 million feet of rope to cover three lawns in Madison Square Park - a project that took nearly two years of rope-wranging to create. In Houston's Hermann Park, Geenger's colorful patchwork sprawl of painted rope "Reyes Gay Too" measures 225 feet.

**GO FISH! EVENTS**

9 a.m. June 7, Kinney Falls State Park
9 a.m. June 14, Bastrop State Park
9 a.m. June 21, Buescher State Park
9 a.m. July 12, Bastrop State Park
9 a.m. July 19, Buescher State Park
9 a.m. Oct. 4, Kinney Falls State Park
Find information at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

**GARDENING**

Craft your own oasis at Austin Pond Tour

2014 tour spans 21 different ponds near and proud pond owner will likely be inspired to add a

**COUNTDOWN TO CAMP**

Get ready: It's time to start packing for camp

Labels and sound organizing are key to these tips also might apply. Some parents are so orga-
Exhibits

continued from E

long and 17 feet wide.

Last month’s unveiling of “Current” detailed with the official naming of the Laguna Gloria grounds as the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park, a recognition of the $9 million the Dal las-based Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation awarded the museum last year when it announced its plans to retrain its en-

ergies into becoming a nexus for permanent and temporary site-specific art.

In fall, celebrated artist Do Ho Suh, known for his full-size house sculptures, will unveil a new project at Laguna Gloria.

For the summer, though, “Current” is one of two new exhibits the Contemporary has staged.

At the Jones Center downtown, with “A Secret Affair: Selections from the Fuhrman Family Collection,” museum director Louis Grachos demonstrates with flair his stewardship in cur-ralling a show out of a private collection – the flipside exhibition that Grachos has selected since coming to Austin last year. (Museum staffer Danielle Nieclag served as the exhibit’s co-curator.)

Glenn Fuhrman is a co-founder of MSD Capital, the private invest-

ments firm for the family of Michael Dell, chairman and CEO of Dell Inc. An avid collector of contemporary art, the New York-based Pula-

man also operates the Flag Art Foundation, a private exhibition space in Manhattan’s Chelsea neighborhood.

Here in Austin, Fuhrman made news in 2009 when MSD Capital pur-

chased the renowned Magnani Photos collection for an undisclosed sum and subsequently housed it at the Universi-

ty of Texas’ Ransom Center. Last year the archive – now valued at $200 million according to UT – was officially donated to the center.

Fuhrman gave Grachos free rein with his collection of contemporary art. And Grachos selected an A-list including most-

ly sculptural work by Matthew Barney, Louise Bourgeois, Maurizio Cat-


Like an alien creature, Thomas Schütte’s shiny bronze larger-than-life-

size figure seems to stalk the window-walled lobby at the Jones Center, star-

ting passersby on Congress Avenue. Perhaps part robot or part ghost and certainly radiometrically uniformed human figure, the sculpture – titled “Großer Gel 4,” or roughly “larger spirit” – isn’t on a pedestal, but rather it floats directly on the floor.

“Großer Gel 4” is the antithesis of, say, Michelangelo’s “David.” And beyond its crumbling form, the exhibit treats us to more fresh (and sometimes subversive) considerations of traditional art, with much of the work on view bordering on the surreal.

There’s Cattelan’s hyper-realistic figures of New York policemen popped on their heads and leaning against the wall. There’s Subhodh Gupta’s enormous steel- and brass spools coupled up on the floor. And there are two laughing old men implausibly seat-

ed in chairs stuck high up on the gallery wall, a ribald spectacle by Juan Muñoz.

Paired with Geng’s sublime re-imaging of the Leopold Hirsch, the epitaph, “A Secret Af-

fair” offers a little surre-

al fun.

Contact: Annie Clark
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Fuhrman gave Grachos free rein with his collection of contemporary art.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT LAGUNA GLORIA

“Susurrus”

Where: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Sat-

ursdays, June 1-28.

What: Scottish theater artist David Leddy customized his critically acclaimed musical-audience play specifically for the Laguna Gloria site. Audiences listen on individual audio devices while following a map around the grounds. “Susurrus” is a sensually contemporary reinterpretation of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” with the play’s narrative of love and loss laced with snippets about botany and birds.

Cost: $10 for audio players and maps

“Music for Wilderness Lake”

Where: 8:15 p.m. June 27 and 6:30 a.m. June 28

What: At dusk and then at dawn, 12 trombones positioned around the lagoon play meditative music by Canadian composer and sound theorist R. Murray Schafer across the water to one another while the music is cast via flags from a canoe in the lagoon. Performance lasts about 30 minutes.

Cost: Free

THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE OF ORDINARY AT MASERATI OF AUSTIN

Any resemblance to the car of your dreams is purely intentional.

The new Maserati – built for an intense life in which the thrill for experience and thrills are omnipresent, and in which new challenges are a permanent driving force. Built for a life that refuses to be hampered by conveniences and feels at the more authentic for it. Direct and intimate. A sports car that gives us what we’re looking for, even in our everyday life that doesn’t have it all.

Is it a robot? Maybe a ghost? Either way, Thomas Schütte’s somewhat surreal sculpture “Großer Gel 4” is nothing if not attention grabbing. You can see it at “A Secret Affair: Selections from the Fuhrman Family Collection.”

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