

THOMAS DANE GALLERY

Mike Roberts, "Permanent Collection show kicks off Pensacola Museum of Art's anniversary", Pensacola News Journal, January 23, 2014

The Pensacola Museum of Art, 407 S. Jefferson St., is getting a head start on celebrating its 60th anniversary. Its permanent collection exhibit includes vintage photos of its nascent years, circa 1955, when shag carpeting wasn't ironically decorative. There's also the visual record of its humble founders flaunting the then-Pensacola Art Center's first acquisitions: A watercolor by Henry Whidden and a cubist painting of the Brooklyn Bridge by Emil Holzhauser.

The Museum has padded its exhibition schedule with permanent collection shows as of late, but this one seems more earnest. Besides the trophy Dali and Picasso prints are lesser-shown works like Lynda Benglis' bronze, tissue-like scrap; Helen Gerardia's pair of geometric serigraphs; and J. Marshall New's painting of a car's bumper overshadowed by its, well, shadow. The works are granted a sense of renewal with the museum's new wood flooring courtesy of Impact 100.

Upstairs is the longest continuing art exhibit in Pensacola, the 60th annual "Youth Art Focus," with its sprawling output by Escambia County students. Both shows run through Feb. 15.

In my "2013 Year-in-Art Review" a few weeks ago, I commented how some local artists seek the benefit of nongallery spaces. A new entry is the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front's "Artist of the Month" at 12 Via de Luna on Pensacola Beach. Displayed in the hotel's gift shop, January's featured artist is Dale Silver, an active member of Blue Morning Gallery, 21 Palafox Place.

At The Wright Place, 80 E. Wright St., is "60 Years of Black & White and a Splash of Color" by photographer Frank Brueske. It opens Monday, but a sneak preview and reception is set from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The show is Brueske's 50 favorite images — mostly landscapes of all stripes — from his 20,000-plus lot taken from 1952 to the present.

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Out at the University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, is “Modern Pulp” at TAG, The Art Gallery, in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts. The show highlights flamboyant magazine covers from the 1920s through the 1950s while focusing on its societal subtext. The opening reception is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday.