

Project Row Houses

A visit to Project Row Houses confirms the power of art to inspire and transform. What was once an abandoned block of shotgun-style houses in Houston's historic Third Ward is now a center for artistic creation and neighborhood renewal. Every April and October, PRH presents a new "Round" of site-specific installations in the revitalized structures. Selected artists work with area residents and youths, creating unique galleries showcasing their work in relation to the architecture and history of the predominantly African-American neighborhood.

Round 17 features the works of seven artists. Entering each house is like opening the drawers of a spice cabinet – a sensory experience in time and place as you breach each threshold. Media range from photography to abstract painting, recorded interviews to wire sculpture, theatrical settings to assembled altarpieces. Leticia Guillory, Mary Hawkins and Virginia Prescott's installations explore the neighborhood and the residents who make their lives there. Voices leak from the door of Prescott's "Recalling Row Houses", stories

of old Third Ward families recorded by collaborating teens from PRH's youth projects. Rocking chairs for listening dot the room.

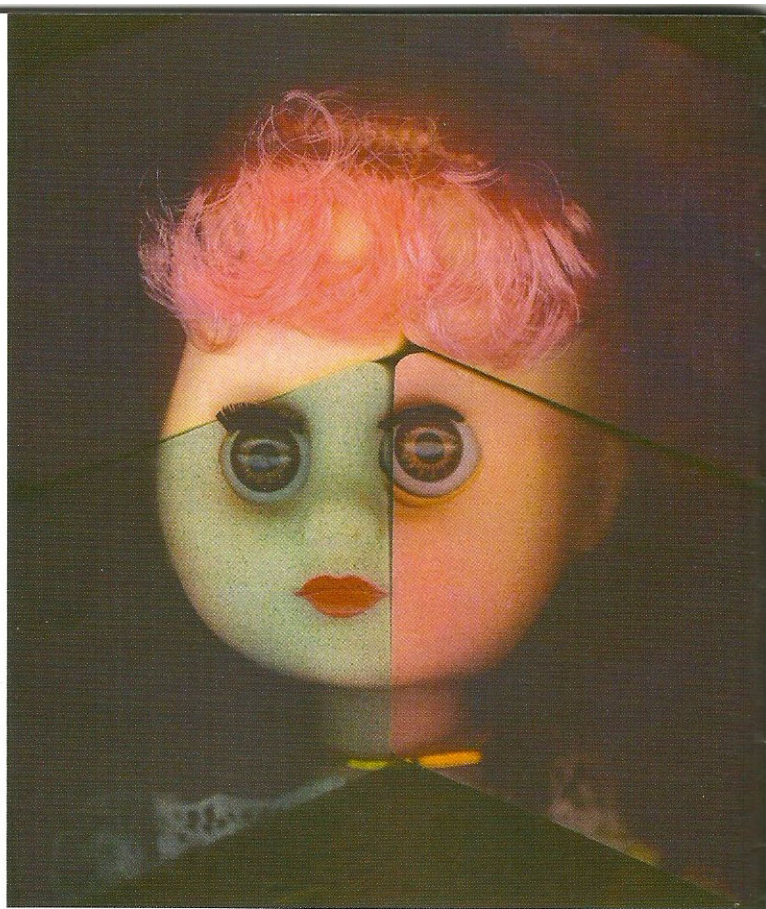
Angelbert Metoyer and Dune Patten invite the viewer along personal spiritual journeys. Patten draws his guests into a cave riddled with written scriptures, a reflection on God and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Robin Hill adheres large-scale

cyanotypes to the interior walls to depict the "detritus of the everyday world". She and Micheal Mezell alter their houses into clean contemporary gallery settings.

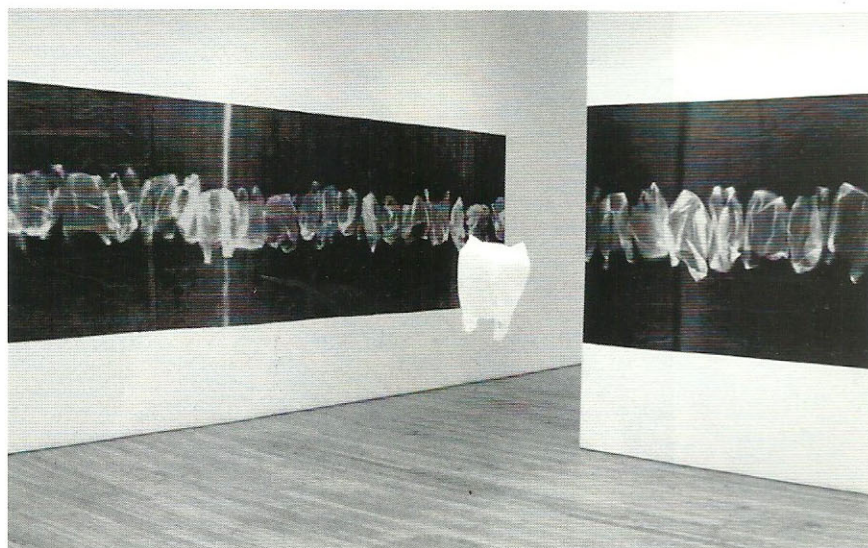
Each installation transforms the tiny houses into other worlds, while maintaining a keen sense of the spaces' previous lives.

– Christine Jelson

Open through March, Project Row Houses, 2500 Holman Street. W-Su 12-5pm. 713.526.7662, www.projectrowhouses.org.



Heath Flaghtvedt, *La Blue Girl*, 46" x 54", inkjet print on silk fabric.



Installation at Project Row Houses. Artist: Robin Hill.