



Making Dallas Even Better

DALLAS ARTS FROM THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE



This Weekend's Art Openings: Dallas' Zero Sum Gallery Game

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POSTED IN VISUAL ARTS. DEC 16, 2015 AT 11:43 AM

What kind of note do you want to end the year on, glass half full or glass half empty?

On the one hand, as we head into one of the last weekends of the year with just a smattering of local art happenings, we could be distracted by the

closing this past weekend of Wanda Dye's RE Gallery. Dye opened the space in the fall of 2012, and since then it has been one of the area's most necessary galleries. Dye worked hard, consistently filled her little shotgun shack house with solid work, and programmed a gallery that doubled as one of the social hubs for the local arts scene.

When RE opened, the Cedars wasn't the art hub that it is today. Sure, artists have had studios in the Cedars for decades, but back in 2012, there were few spaces to view art. Now, the Cedars is home to Pariah and the quonset huts, James Cope's And Or, and the new MAC. RE played an important role during its three-year lifespan, showing work by a number of good artists both from Dallas and elsewhere. It is encouraging to hear that that history won't be lost — exhibition archives will be housed at the Dallas Museum of Art — though it is sad to see it go, even if Dye is excited to move on to new adventures in her native Alabama.

Dallas loses one gallery one weekend and gains another one the next. Perhaps it's just coincidence, but it speaks to the resilience of Dallas' current artistic ecosystem that there are new spaces popping up to take the place of the ones that close. This newest one is SITE 131, a non-profit art space opening this weekend in the Design District. The proprietor is none other than Joan Davidow, formerly of the Arlington Museum of Art and the Dallas Contemporary. Davidow will run the space with her son Seth, a collector. SITE 131's focus is on mounting thoughtful group exhibitions, and the inaugural affair looks to be just that, bringing together work by Lauren Muggeo, Art Peña, and Marjorie Schwarz.