

FRESH

by Susie Kalil

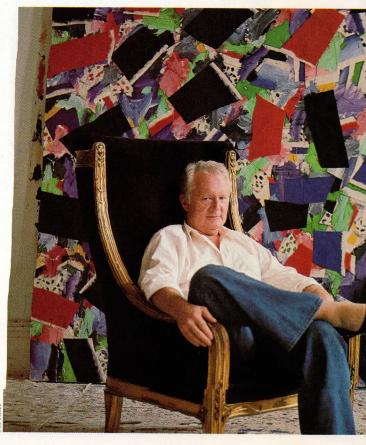
Last year, fueled with enthusiasm and spurred on by a personal aversion to New York ideology, the well-known art critic and curator Barbara Rose proposed to Houston's Museum of Fine Arts that she organize an exhibition of paintings to herald the birth of a new school of art centered around Houston.

The show Rose visualized, intentionally, controversially titled "Fresh Paint: The Houston School," would be significant on at least two counts. First, it would announce the recognition of a major regional movement, distinguishing Houston from other important American art centers. Second, it would demonstrate that in painting, quality and frontier-spirit vitality needn't be mutually exclusive.

An exhibition of this nature would provide an opportunity to identify common elements and place local work within a critical context. So when Barbara asked me to guest-curate "Fresh Paint," I welcomed the occasion to further investigate certain observations about art from this area. There has never been a group exhibition that pleased everyone: People are as vociferous about artists included in a show as they

The Houston-area artists picked for the Museum of Fine Art's landmark exhibition display a wide variety of styles and outlooks. Twentyseven-year-old Kelly Alison, TOP RIGHT, makes her energetic, deeply personal, figurative paintings in a converted barn in Wild Peach near Brazoria. She is represented at Graham Gallery. Joseph Glasco, BOTTOM RIGHT, grew up in Tyler, Texas. He creates his well-known paintings of acrylic and collage on canvas in a loft on the Strand in Galveston, and in New York. Gimpel and Weitzenhoffer, New York, represents him.







ON THE COVER: Texan Shelley Duvall leads a storybook life in Los Angeles, where she produces and stars in her own cable television show, "Faerie Tale Theatre." A profile of Duvall begins on page 40. Her stunningly sequined trench coat is from Chanel Boutique, at Bloomingdale's, New York City. Earrings from Chanel Accessories. Pearl and 18k-gold ring from Mikimoto. The modern face is envisioned by Visage Chanel/Les Lumieres. Lips and nails are a tawny Golden Glow. Dual eye shadow is in black and gold. The velvety matte complexion begins with Blanc des Chanel. (New for 1985-the Luxury Powder compact in purse size.) The classic fragrance of Chanel No. 5 is the finishing touch. Hair and makeup by Alfonso Noe for Cloutier L.A. Photograph by Robert Mapplethorpe. Styling by Dimitri Levas. Transportation courtesy of Continental Airlines.

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