

# The Washington Post

## More of FotoWeek's best: Shows that haven't shuttered

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

-- "*James Osher: Three Seconds With the Masters*" at Addison/Ripley Fine Art

James Osher makes art by photographing art. His luscious, large-scale color photos capture great paintings on museum walls. Instead of approaching them foursquare and worshipfully, the way you would if you were illustrating a textbook, Osher shoots them at angles. He also lets them blur, as though shot on the fly by a tourist running after a guide. He demonstrates that there's more to how we see art than what it looks like. That tempts me to photograph Osher's own photographs, off-kilter and at speed. Through Dec. 5. 202-338-5180 or <http://www.addisonripleyfineart.com>.

-- "*Dialogues in Mexican Photography*" at the Mexican Cultural Institute

Two fascinating shows in one. At ground level, an exhibition of photos from the important collection of the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico City surveys the history of 20th-century photography in Mexico. It includes landmark figures such as Manuel Alvarez Bravo and Tina Modotti, who made major contributions to modernist photography, as well as representatives of the documentary approaches that have flourished more recently in Mexico.

Three floors up, one of the best commercial galleries in Mexico City, called OMR, presents the photo-based art of five contemporary figures. There are charming loops of video by Mauricio Alejo (a coin that seems to spin forever; a crumpled paper coming uncrumpled) as well as conceptual photographs by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer that explore our security-mad world. Through Jan. 30. 202-728-1628 or <http://www.instituteofmexicodc.org>.

-- "*Economy of Scale*" at Hemphill Fine Arts

A show in which photographers from all over take pictures of all kinds of subjects. In 1933, Margaret Bourke-White shot a helium airship in black and white. Earlier this year, local photographer Colby Caldwell took color photos of spent shotgun cartridges. In between comes everything from combine harvesters (shot by Erich Hartmann in 1959) to Cold War missile models (shot by Ralph Morse in 1971). The wall labels are as striking as the photos: Instead of waxing lyrical about these images as art, they give context for the real-world phenomena documented in them. Through Dec. 23. 202-234-5601 or <http://www.hemphillfinearts.com>.

-- "*The Real Story of the Superheroes*" at Smith Farm Center for Healing and the Arts

Advertisement



**Sedaris Reads Sedaris**

Listen for yourself

Click to expand

audible.com

In this charming show, Mexican photographer Dulce Pinzón shoots Latino immigrants in New York City as they get on with the tough jobs they often take on. But first she dresses them in the superhero costumes they merit. Window washer Bernabe Mendez, who sends home \$500 a month, is photographed as Spider-Man. Through Nov. 28. 202-483-8600 or <http://www.smithfarm.com>.

-- "Portrait 2.0" at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

Collector Michael Pollack curates a group show of people-pictures by some leading local art photographers. It includes formal portraits by Chan Chao of women in a prison in Peru, as well as Matt Dunn's snapshot-style photos of Washingtonians being themselves, compiled into an August Sander-style inventory. Through Dec. 5. 301-608-9101 or <http://www.pyramidatlanticartcenter.org>.

-- **Blake Gopnik**

### Post a Comment

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article.

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit

Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that are unsigned or contain "signatures" by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the [full rules](#) governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post.

### Sponsored Links

#### **DO NOT Bleach Teeth**

Learn 1 simple trick, discovered by a mom, that dentists DON'T want you to know.  
[www.consumertiptoday.com](http://www.consumertiptoday.com)

#### **Mom's Whitening Trick?**

Learn the trick to turn yellow teeth white for under \$5.  
[HoustonPost.org/Health\\_Tips](http://HoustonPost.org/Health_Tips)

#### **Mom Makes \$67/hr Online**

Mom Makes \$6,477 a month online! Read her story to find out how to do it.  
[www.PACourierNews.com](http://www.PACourierNews.com)

[Buy a link here](#)