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Artist Orna Feinstein traces the change in her work to Texas



Michael Granberry



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Blame it on Texas. That's what happened to Orna Feinstein, who in 1984 moved to Houston, which inspired a major change in the art she creates.

Born in Jerusalem, Feinstein longed to be an artist from the time she was a sweet 16. Not even a yen for biology and chemistry or a stint in the Israeli army from 1972 to 1974, which coincided with the Yom Kippur War, could dampen her passion for art.



Thirteen years after arriving in flat, humid Houston, surrounded by pine trees and a landscape sublimely different from her native Israel, she came to embrace the totally abstract.

“I got bored with making art about which I already knew the end result, even before I started,” Feinstein told me in a 2010 interview.

Five years later, she’s one of three artists featured in the Craighead Green show that opens April 4. She shares the exhibition at the Dragon Street gallery with Peter Burega and Kendall Stallings in Craighead Green’s latest installment of its patented three-artist series.

“In the way that I was doing art before,” Feinstein said then, “there was no discovery, no mystery, no nothing. I knew ahead of time how it was all going to look. I discovered that I like to work spontaneously, intuitively ... and make discoveries as I go.”

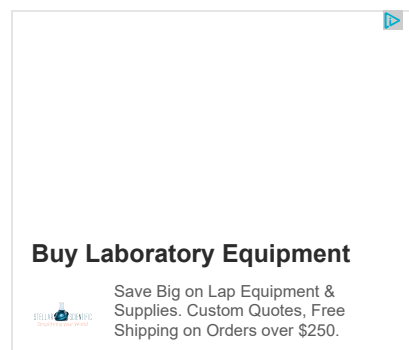
The result, in her case, is printmaking with a flair, one that combines three-dimensional elements and feeds her soul as much as it underscores her rich talent as an artist.

In the new Craighead Green show, she combines printmaking with hand coloring. But she’s also part of a traveling exhibition, “Now and Zen — Fifteen Years of Contemporary Printmaking.”

That show is scheduled for multiple museums in Texas through the spring of 2016, including a stop at Dallas’ MADI Museum in a show that runs from April 17 through July 5.

Feinstein traces the change in her art to her own rich history, to her yin-yang longings of science vs. art, “to thinking and feeling and the balance that comes from two sources.”

For her, “there is nothing I don’t like about art. I love making art, looking at art, buying art, reading about art. ... I’m totally ecstatic about it. Some nights I can’t sleep because I have so much excitement over ideas of what I want to make and do.”

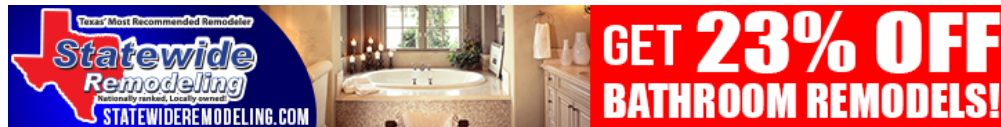


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