

REVIEW

PhotoNOLA
exhibits

PhotoNOLA is the New Orleans Photo Alliance's big annual event, and although its official festivities only last a few days, many of its more than 50 photography exhibitions run through December, and some go through January. (Visit www.photonola.org/exhibitions for the list.) It's too much for most people to see, but an exhibit of prints by Photo Alliance members at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art provides a sampler. Most of the work is consistently interesting, but the edgy, art history-inspired collaborative pieces by Epaul Julien and Elizabeth Kleinveld can be startling. Their emblematic *Ode to Van Eyck's Arnolfini Marriage* (pictured) is mostly true to the Renaissance original but with a modern multicultural twist. Also be sure to check out the splendid Louviere + Vanessa retrospective while you're there.



A different interplay of past and present appears in the Octavia Gallery's *Contemporary Antiques* expo, where local masters of archaic photographic techniques such as Debbie Fleming Caffery, David Halliday, Josephine Sacabo and Euphus Ruth share space with hundreds of Instagram photos arranged salon-style, covering the walls. These works offer a contrast between the instant gratification of digital technology and the aura of depth and presence associated with the much slower and more labor-intensive photo techniques of the past. Photography originally was seen as an alternative to painting, which the soft-focus lenses of the 19th century often suggested, but in more modern times paintings became much sharper, sometimes almost photographic. Lake Roberson Newton's *Painter's Choice* series of abstract photographs at Staple Goods blurs the boundaries between the brush and the lens. Prints with titles like *Baltimore*, *Palermo* or *Memphis* often possess the mysterious presence of ciphers that playfully link photographic immediacy to the legacies of modernist painters in a circular continuum of influence. — D. ERIC BOOKHARDT

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Contemporary Antiques: Group exhibition
curated by Franke Relle

Octavia Art Gallery, 4532 Magazine St.
(504) 309-4249; www.octaviaartgallery.com

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Currents: Group exhibition by
New Orleans Photo Alliance members

Ogden Museum of Southern Art, 925 Camp St.
(504) 539-9600; www.ogdenmuseum.org

Painters' Choice: Photographs by
Lake Roberson Newton

Saturday-Sunday

Staple Goods, 1340 St. Roch Ave.

(504) 908-7331; www.postmedium.org/staplegoods

