

Gallery lets its art and patrons breathe

By SHERMAKAYE BASS

Special to the American-Statesman

Every now and then, a bold underground arts entity comes along with the guts to try to be everything and nothing at all — a blank canvas. **Movements Gallery**, which quietly opened two years ago, is one those outfits. Its mission isn't to make a lot of money, or to pass aesthetic judgment, or to pose chic or slacker, but to simply let local art breathe, whether it's poetry or transmedia, painting or dance. And the most interesting thing about it may be that it lives in the most commercial, attitudinal district in town — Sixth Street — and survives.

Which warrants a week's glance at Movements' movements. For instance, on Wednesday nights, the space hosts open-mike poetry. This Thursday, the gallery hosts a slam. On Friday, Movements features an art opening with the organic-impressionistic-slightly-geometric paintings of **Brian Wootan** (accompanied by the jazz of the **Blue Noise Band**). On Saturday, it's a film installation by **Ricardo Aceveo** — alternative fare to the upcoming South by South Film Festival. And on any given Tuesday through Thursday, the

Arts notes

gallery's got, of all things, yoga workshops.

In the past, Movements has showcased fringe theater, dance that can't be categorized, experimental music, art that maybe no one else in town would hang — which, along with the yoga twist, casts it as a pretty democratic environment. What better place to meditate on compassion or practice the Downward Dog than among the paintings or sculpture of a young, possibly struggling artist? Great marriage, no?

According to Movements co-owner **Andrew Baron**, that was precisely the point when he and **Kimberly Zawislak** opened the nonfrills space above Marisco's on Sixth:

"We mainly wanted a space that didn't have any sort of subjective guidelines. Everything is open for argumentation" and interpretation, he says. "It's so difficult to determine what's art and what's not art. . . . Basically, we wanted to support the arts — and not so much the mainstream arts, but any artistic endeavor."

And so they are. That's gutsy.

Now for logistics: Open-mike poetry is at 9 p.m. Wednesdays. The slam is at 9 p.m. Thursday. The art opening is at 8:30 p.m. Friday. The film installation starts at 8 p.m. Saturday. And, oh, the yoga is Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Movements is upstairs at 211 E. Sixth St. Call 469-1745 or visit www.movementsgallery.com for schedule information.

Words in space: More poetry in the gallery this week. From 7 to 8 p.m. Saturday, there will be readings from "Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review" at **Gallery Lombardi**, 920 W. Third St. Call 481-1088 for more info.

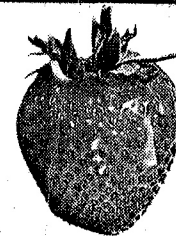
Art of the Byzantine: Russian iconographer **Vladislav Andrejev** offers a six-day workshop on the painting of Byzantine icons. Open to novices and experts, with explanations of "the theological basis for icon writing." From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through March 20 at Sri Atmananda Memorial School, 4100 Red River St. Call 458-4941.

Music's patroness: As part of its continuing "St. Cecilia Music

Series," the First Presbyterian Church hosts a concert of **Scott Joplin** music, as interpreted by pianist **Scott Kirby**. At 8 p.m. Friday at the church, 8001 Mesa Drive. Call 345-8866.

Timely matters: Nominations for the national **1999 Business in the Arts Awards** are currently being considered by the Business Committee for the Arts Inc. in New York. Co-sponsored by Forbes magazine, the awards recognize businesses in three categories — commitment, innovation and initiative — and one business executive for efforts in leadership. The deadline is April 30. For more information, contact Michele C. De Santis, Director of National Programs, BCA, 1775 Broadway, Suite 510, New York, N.Y. 10019-1942. Or call (212) 664-0600.

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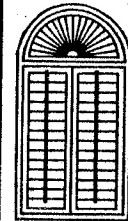
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