

Get SF Weekly Newsletters For Email Newsletters you can trust.

Join Sign in

WEEKLY

Culture

BACON AND BEER CLASSIC LEVI'S® STADIUM SAT FEB 27TH 20% OFF CODE: SF

UNLIMITED SAMPLES!
100+ CRAFT BEERS
30+ BACON DISHES

ARTS HOME | THE EXHIBITIONIST | THEATER | TELEVISION



A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ★★ THE UNFORTUNATES ★★ NOW PLAYING!

WEEKLY EXHIBITIONIST SHOWING OFF SAN FRANCISCO'S ART + CULTURE

TOP



From Walrus Hunts to Melting Continents: The Shifting Art of

By



The Plague's The Thing: Death and Song in A.C.T.'s *The Unfortunates*

By



Optimism and Humor in the African-American Shakespeare

By

Art

Mexican Collective CAMINO Loves the Baby Jesus

Posted By Matthew Harrison Tedford on Tue, May 19, 2015 at 8:00 AM



Bass & Reiner Gallery

King cakes are eaten throughout the world to celebrate the Epiphany, the day the Magi visited Jesus in the Christian tradition. A small figure of baby Jesus is often placed in inside or under the cake, and in Mexico, whoever receives the slice with the little lord is customarily obliged to host a dinner. Mexico City-based collective CAMINO, comprised of María José Baez and Daniela Michelle Ramirez, use this tradition to explore contemporary interpretations of religious customs in *Amen*, an exhibition with San Francisco artist Taravat Talepasand at Bass & Reiner Gallery.

Get your sunny vacation here.

Jackalope Brewing Company

CAMINO created a large plaster cast of the figurine and sent it to artists, designers, and musicians from Mexico City and elsewhere, asking them to alter the object as they saw fit. Fifty of the creepy-chic sculptures are on view at Bass & Reiner, and though they are based on an identical figure, the result is a pleasing variety of work.

Ana Bellido's modifications are minor but transform the figure into a woodland hunstman, cloaked in rabbit fur and wearing a canine-shaped skullcap. The figure's arms are crossed, as they are in all the pieces, but in this context the pose projects stoicism and dignity. **JuanJosé Rivas** intervenes more actively, reshaping Jesus into a tattooed minotaur with a fuzzy, doll-like head and pierced septum. The creature stands on a plastic pedestal with a red button. When the button is pressed, lights in the creature's eyes flash and the voice of a cheap plastic toy recites the the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. The ox sometimes symbolizes Saint Luke, which may be referenced here, but the pointed tail and Hellenic association suggest something more devilish.



Ana Bellido

Some of the sculptures are humorous, like **Taquito Jocoque**'s piece, which is painted pink, affixed with googly eyes, and used as a vase for fake roses emanating from a hole in the head. Instagram user

@anagdl (Ana Gómez de León) also makes the statue a functional object by replacing its head entirely with a light bulb, with an electrical umbilical cord extends from the baby's smooth white belly. Others use the figure as a canvas for abstract paintings or a tabula rasa for various characters.



Taravat Talepasand

Talepasand, whose work engages with taboo and social norms in Iranian culture, offers a perfect companion to the CAMINO sculptures. An altar in the corner of the gallery positions six porcelain statues from her *Mullahs Ghost* series (2012) around one of CAMINO's Jesus casts. The women in the statues are draped in hijabs and chadors with only cartoonishly large breasts exposed and their prominent behinds outlined by form-fitting attire. Though the Muslim iconography is strong, the women resemble the Madonna encircling the Christ Child. The baby and the women are reduced to pan-cultural archetypes rather than specific individuals.

This may explain why *Amen* is so wonderfully accessible. Though based on specific religious customs that aren't practiced by all viewers, each piece represents a personal interpretation of these traditions, ranging from pious to sacrilegious, defiant to amusing.

Amen, through June 20, at Bass & Reiner Gallery, 3265 17 St. #402.

POPULAR STORIES

Most Popular Stories | Stories You Missed



From Walrus Hunts to Melting Continents: The Shifting Art of Polar and Alpine Regions



Chatting With Kim Novak, Who Brings Vertigo to SF Symphony This Weekend



R.I.P. San Francisco Drag Sensation Nikki Starr



Imagine: A Gay Man Living With Two Women! Three's Company Live! Hits Oasis



The Hunger Games: The Exhibition Reveals San Francisco's Not Too Distant Future

VERIFY YOUR BUSINESS

Give Customers Proper Information. Complete Your Business Info Now.

Verify Your Business

Activate Your Business Listing Now. Show up on Google Search & Maps.



 **The Exhibitionist**
 Like Page 2K likes

Follow @ExhibitionistSF

Like 247

Tweet

G+ 1



Tags: Amen, CAMINO, Taravat Talepasand, Bass & Reiner Gallery, Image, Video

Customers and technology go together like **AT&T** and you.

Join our retail team >






24% off storewide
 plus
24 months no interest*
 NO MINIMUM PURCHASE

Click to find a location

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



The Exhibitionist
2,064 likes

Like Page

Share

4 friends like this



The Exhibitionist

February 15 at 4:39pm

Here are three exhibits that you should definitely check out



SLIDESHOWS



Metric @ The Masonic



Astronauts, Etc. @ The Independent

More Slideshows »

About The Author



Matthew Harrison Tedford

COMMENTS

Subscribe to this thread: By Email With RSS

Subscribe to this thread

Post Comment

UFC 196
 CHAMPION VS CHAMPION
DOS ANJOS vs MCGREGOR
 WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
 THE SUPER FIGHT
 6PM
MAR 5 SATURDAY ON PPV
 HOLM vs TATE
 WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

ON THE LARGEST HD SCREEN IN THE CITY W/ SOUND!
 PURCHASE PRESALE TICKETS AND RESERVE YOUR VIP TABLE

CONDOR
 560 BROADWAY • 415.781.8222
 f @CONDORSF i #CONDORSF t
 WWW.CONDORSF.COM

GLORIA FERRER
 CAVES & VINEYARDS

Bubbles & Blooms
 Learn More

**Saturday April 9
 2016 | 12-4 pm
 Sonoma, CA**