

The best exhibitions of the year

Despite tough economy, some notable shows

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LAMONTAGNE GALLERY

In South Boston, LaMontagne Gallery has staged some terrific painting shows this year, chief among them Joe Wardwell's "Die Young," which blended the flash of rock 'n' roll typography with gorgeously rendered scenes of the American West. The results were stark, comic, and deeply engaged with art history and its description of American identity.

The year's top 10

"Annette Lemieux: Taking Stock" and **"Peter Downsbrough"** (Barbara Krakow Gallery)

"At the Center . . . In the Eye" (Nielsen Gallery)

"Daniel Phillips: Inherent Tendencies Toward Disorganization" (Judi Rotenberg Gallery)

"Hank Gilpin: New Furniture and a Display of Commissioned Projects" (Gallery NAGA)

~~"The Boston Store: prototype"~~
by Aaron L. Peterman (Miller Block Gallery)

"Joe Wardwell: Die Young" (LaMontagne Gallery)

"Matthew Rich: IRE & ICE" (samson)

"Agnès Varda: Les Veuves de Noirmoutier (The Widows of Noirmoutier)" (Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University)

"And the fair Moon rejoices: contemporary visionaries in the wake of Blake" (Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts)