

## Essential Dallas Gallery Exhibits to Start an Artful 2016

By Kendall Morgan



*Secret Ceremony* by Celia Eberle, at Cris Worley Fine Arts.

January's art gallery shows give us the rare opportunity to indulge (nearly) all the senses. From conceptual works that can be perceived as mirthful or menacing to a multifaceted exploration of France's most famous female writer, there's a lot to examine. You can look, listen, and even smell. But remember not to touch!

"The Mythology of Love,"

Celia Eberle at Cris Worley Fine Arts

Reception: January 9, 6-8 pm

Exhibition dates: January 9-February 13

Dallas-based multimedia artist Celia Eberle has a reputation for dark subject matter, yet her exploration of one of the strongest human emotions can almost be perceived as whimsical. At least until you take a deeper look.

An inaugural recipient of the Nasher Sculpture Center artist microgrant, Eberle uses the likes of horses, bats — even little lambs — to explore the subterranean aspects of our psyches.

“Her work is truly magical for the most part,” says gallerist Cris Worley. “The best thing about Celia’s work is it has such layered complexity. There’s a definite playfulness to it, but when you dig, some of the inquiries are into the darker parts of the human experience.”

To reveal the concept of l’amour as fully as possible, the artist has created four signature perfumes sold separately from her sculpted bottles topped with poodles or two-headed kittens. A few works have musical components, trilling the likes of “Moonlight Sonata” or hits by Elvis. One little lamb sculpture with its throat slit is a play on both the wedding and sacrificial altar.

“My basic philosophy is anything that isn’t hard science or math is a myth,” Eberle explains. “That leaves the door open to all sorts of imagery or ideas. I take an oblique approach to a concept just to give you a different perspective on the usual thing.

“I am into the subconscious and the things we try to deny within ourselves, and I think humor and playfulness mitigate that.”