

Reclaiming Our History (and Local Artists)

By Scott Andrews

Congrats to the San Antonio Museum of Art. Last week, contemporary art curator David S. Rubin placed 22 new acquisitions in the SAMA galleries, including works by local artists James F. Dicke II*, Joey Fauerso*, Jim Harter*, Chuck Ramirez, Henry Rayburn, Alex Rubio, Ed Saavedra, Mark Schlesinger, Ansen Seale*, Hills Snyder, Vincent Valdez, and Lloyd Walsh. Pieces by national and international talent include works by Alain Amiand*, Gregory Botts*, Eva Bovenzi*, Janice Freeman, Daniel Hernandez-Salazar, Paul Manes, Jeff McMillan, Jim Morphesis, Ray Rapp*, and Deborah Remington.

Better yet, the locals aren't sequestered to a Texas collection, but integrated with everyone else in a series of galleries that are thematically organized. Clip this column, and play scavenger hunt in SAMA's contemporary collection, located on the mezzanine and the second floor, Ed Saavedra's portrait *Milk*, of assassinated gay activist and San Francisco politician Harvey Milk.

Meanwhile, visiting Slovakian theater director Viera Dubačová claimed last week that Texas school textbooks make no mention of Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution, the non-violent revolt that defeated the communist government in 1989. That's shocking if true, but it seems our school books are missing a few other details, as well. To make amends, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (1300 Guadalupe) is presenting the "Made in Texas Teacher Workshop" from 5-7pm Wednesday, November 16. The free workshop presents materials to bring Mexican-American literature and culture to the classroom with 30 lesson plans (enough for six weeks), including the book *Made in Texas: Mexican American Literature and Culture*, filled with non-fiction, fiction, memoirs, and poetry by Texas writers such as Erasmo Guerra, Dagoberto Gilb, and Sandra Cisneros.