

## Entertainment

### January 2010 Art Top Picks for First Fridays

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Richmond.com  
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*Editor's note: Christina Newton is the director of Curated Culture, the non-profit that spearheaded and organizes First Fridays. Now that Richmond.com is the official online partner of First Fridays, we're pleased to announce that Christina will be writing for us once a month about First Fridays.*

The New Year kicked off to a good start for Richmond's arts community, and for us at **First Fridays** in particular.

Being here on **Richmond.com** for example, sharing thoughts with you on our **First Fridays Art Walk** program is more than I could have imagined. But thanks to their love for Richmond, and First Fridays, and the possibilities they hold, their recent sponsorship will help us spread our enthusiasm for arts and culture and its transformative power to improve our community, specifically Downtown.

And as Downtown neighbors, our new relationship makes even more sense. In short, I'm really excited to be working with Richmond.com as our new online sponsor!

But enough of getting teary-eyed. I'm here to introduce you to what's happening this month at First Fridays. The Art Walk was moved back one week to January 8, 2010 due to the New Year's Holiday, which hasn't happened in our 8 years, and we're anxious to make your new year art-filled. Most venues are open 6 to 10 p.m., but check our Web site or Richmond.com's new **First Fridays Online Guide** for details for the individual locations.

There are always too many great exhibitions and too little time and space to properly cover everything that happens in our creative community. Without a doubt, Richmond is a world-class art city (and just wait until the Virginia Museum of Fine reopens.) While I recommend you go see and experience as much art as you can, these are my **Top Picks for January** at the participating First Fridays Art Walk venues:

I start with a show that's continuing through January, and I'm so happy that **Ghostprint Gallery** is extending their outstanding show **Unseen Versailles** by internationally known photographer Deborah Turbeville through Jan. 30.

Ghostprint featured some of my favorite shows in 2009 and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the new year. Turbeville's work is usually seen in museums around the world so this is a rare experience to get up close and personal with a great visionary. Works on view are from the book "Unseen Versailles" originally published in 1981 where the artist had the unusual opportunity to photograph her subjects in the palace's storerooms and attics. Her works are unique period pieces that are captivatingly haunting. I continue to learn more about the artist and her work and am thrilled to have the opportunity to experience this exhibition and encourage you to do the same.

Pushing boundaries and creating dialogue are goals of art making, and it's satisfying to see more artists thinking critically and passionately about political issues and current events. As we step into 2010, shows at **ISHQ Fine Arts Gallery** and **Gallery 5** present important projects with



Image from "Unseen Versailles" series by Deborah Turbeville on view at Ghostprint Gallery.

Deborah Turbeville



"Relocation" by Josephine Durkin. Her work will be on view in a solo show at Metro Space Gallery.

Josephine Durkin



"Untitled" from the exhibition "Say Love" at Gallery 5 by photographer L.

resolve toward peace and unity, and these can't come soon enough.

ISHQ Gallery presents a bold art project **SOLA Campaign** by the artist collective, **Artists for Peace** (A-Pax) that promotes peaceful teachings of Islam and condemns the brutal acts committed in the name of this faith. SOLA means "peace" in Pashto, the national language of Afghanistan. The show will feature fine art and graphic media in protest of crimes of terrorism while also creating a better understanding of the peaceful message of the Qur'an.

Gallery 5 partners with organizers of **GayRVA.com** on a fascinating project and group photography exhibition **Say Love: An Exhibition of Love and Hate** that hopes to break down barriers and misconceptions of our sexual minority friends and celebrate the triumphs and struggles of the LGBT community. You can get involved through interactive video and photography at the show with works thereafter being featured online.

**Metro Space Gallery's** upcoming exhibition **Excerpts and Conversations** features the mixed media works of Texas based artist **Josephine Durkin** is sure to be powerful and perfect for their warehouse-space environment. More likely installation, Durkin's work since graduating from **VCU** and Yale University, has brought forth the creation of drawings, videos, sculptures, and large-scale, interactive and kinetic installations investigating how these can be manipulated into human form. She also simply makes beautiful objects.

*Christina Newton is the director of Curated Culture, the non-profit that hosts and organizes the First Friday Artwalk. First Fridays was recently named "Richmonder of the Year" by Style Weekly.*

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