



## Navigating *A Coarse Portal* at ArtStorm

Houston, TX – Local artist Philip Durbin unveils his largest compilation to date of psychedelic paintings, prints, and wearable art this October at ArtStorm, transporting visitors through *A Coarse Portal* of dynamic and provocative imagery, all-at-once playful and humorous while also brooding and dark. The exhibition is on view from October 24 through November 22. Note the special opening date: the opening reception takes place on Friday, October 24, from 7–10 PM, featuring spun gold by DJ Ceeplus Bad Knives and KTRU alum PRKL8R.



Prolific painter and screen printer Philip Durbin presents new work, ranging from clean, colorful graphic-inspired paintings to textured panoramic narrative prints. Durbin's distinctive combination of hand-painted imagery and printed mark-making comes from his enthusiasm for Pop Art and his keen ability to find the intricate balance between dry wit, overt humor, and mastered skill.

A Houston native who has been working prolifically since graduating from HSPVA's art department alongside many ArtStorm board members, Durbin credits his professional work as a source of inspiration for his graphic-inspired designs. As a senior printer and designer for Houston's TNT Shirts, Durbin has mastered the silk screening process, honing his skills to create new ways of using commercialized printing techniques.

The always slightly-off-kilter and highly emotive subjects of Durbin's paintings exemplify a dual narrative: they might seem on the surface to be humorous, but they also reveal darkness, depth, and effortless innovation. This presentation at ArtStorm marks the artist's first solo exhibition of entirely new work.

*A Coarse Portal* will feature multi-media work on paper, canvas, and vellum, as well as limited-edition prints and wearable art available for purchase in the ArtStorm store, which will open for the first time during the inaugural night of this exhibition. The opening night reception will feature a full-length set by infamous DJ Ceeplus Bad Knives, of Reprogram Music and Concepts, and KTRU alum and guest DJ, PRKL8R.

ArtStorm is located in the Caroline Collective, in the heart of Houston's thriving Museum District, just blocks away from Lawndale Art Center and the Metrorail Museum District station. ArtStorm's address is 4828 Caroline Street, Houston, TX, 77004. The gallery is open every Saturday from 12–7 PM and Sunday from 12–5 PM or by appointment. Please visit us online at [www.artstormhouston.com](http://www.artstormhouston.com) or contact us at [artstorm.houston@gmail.com](mailto:artstorm.houston@gmail.com). Additional information and images are available by request. For press inquiries, contact Megan Whitenton at [meg.whit@gmail.com](mailto:meg.whit@gmail.com)

*Making Biscuits*, courtesy of Philip Durbin

Next Article Below



## ArtStorm Exhibits Two of Their Own:

### *A Jewel Encrusted Pathology*

Houston, TX – Collaborative team Alicia Seale and Megan Whitenton have joined forces once again to present an exhibition of their own drawings, paintings, and mixed media in *A Jewel Encrusted Pathology*, opening at ArtStorm on February 13, with a reception from 7–10 PM. In this exhibition, the artists will install their mixed media and works on paper in a unique “lived-in” environment, where guests of the opening reception will be able to freely interact with the surrounding furniture, housewares, and art objects on display, creating an informal lounge where original artwork and familiar personal keepsakes can co-exist. With this unique objective in mind, ArtStorm will host the opening reception within the interior gallery space, inviting guests to make themselves at home amongst the art in the exhibition, much like they would in their own living rooms. *A Jewel Encrusted Pathology* will be on view through March 14.

As practicing artists with similar interests, Seale and Whitenton first collaborated at ArtStorm in curating last year’s *Anywhere But Here*, an exhibition featuring a selection of work by some of their favorite artists from across the United States. As original board members and co-founders of ArtStorm, Seale has served mainly as Senior Designer with Whitenton taking on the role of PR Director since the gallery opened its doors. Seale, who favors traditional methods such as pen-and-ink to accentuate incredibly meticulous works on paper, will also exhibit hand-crafted custom-made housewares and three-dimensional works in the show. Complementing the sublime subtleties of Seale’s graphic imagery, Whitenton will display texturally diverse collage-inspired works on paper, along with sculptural and colorful mixed media and one-of-a-kind “recycled and repurposed” works of art.

“Although we have different methods of conveying visual information, we share a very particular basic aesthetic—somehow it translates into almost everything, even outside of the realm of visual art,” Seale says. “We’re able to share projects because there’s a level of understanding there—it’s all about the perfect balance between dark and light, positive and negative, slightly disturbing and totally inappropriate.” Whitenton adds, “We’re both interested in subversive concepts and imagery, but the challenging part is making creative decisions about how to present our ideas so that they result in a deliberately crafted work of art. As an artist, I definitely feel like it is my responsibility to consider every element of my work, from conception to exhibition, since the overall aesthetic is so important to me.”

Following a special tour of ArtStorm’s January exhibition for beginning art collectors, all works of art in this exhibition will be reasonably priced, and all prices will be negotiable. This unique installation opportunity also allows for visitors to envision the piece as it would live in their home, and the affordable pricing, as is common policy at ArtStorm, ensures that collectors and art enthusiasts from all walks of life can own a one-of-a-kind work.

Aside from the innovative installation complementing the work on display, ArtStorm is proud to present fellow HSPVA alum Lenny Zieben, who returns to Houston to treat audiences to the explosive theatrical musical experience that is *Voluptuous Tusk*, also featuring local noise

favorites *A Thousand Cranes*. Special Valentine's Day refreshments will be provided. The opening reception, featuring *Voluptuous Tusk & Guests* and *A Thousand Cranes*, will be Friday, October 13, from 7–10 PM.

ArtStorm is located in the Caroline Collective building, in the heart of Houston's thriving Museum District, just blocks away from Lawndale Art Center and the Metrorail Museum District station. ArtStorm's address is 4828 Caroline Street, Houston, TX, 77004. The gallery is open every Saturday 12–7 PM and Sunday from 12–5 PM or by appointment. Please visit us at [www.artstormhouston.com](http://www.artstormhouston.com) or contact us at [artstorm.houston@gmail.com](mailto:artstorm.houston@gmail.com).

Additional information and images are available by request. For press inquiries, contact Megan Whitenton at [meg.whit@gmail.com](mailto:meg.whit@gmail.com).

*Origins*, courtesy of Megan Whitenton

UP NEXT AT ARTSTORM: Mexican-born graffiti artist extraordinaire Fidel Ordonez exhibits work and unveils site-specific mural at ArtStorm, opens March 21.

### Next Article Below

For Immediate Release

ArtStorm has descended on Houston with cool art and live music. This new organization, created by artists, for artists, is dedicated to showing a variety of work, highlighting established local talent as well as giving up-and-coming artists, musicians, and performers a place to show and play. Devoted, hard-working artists actually run this place, and we're open to fresh and innovative ideas about art and music. Our creative approach means we're accessible to artists in Houston, and we always have their best interests in mind.

The founders of ArtStorm appreciate the hardships some artists face in starting out, trying to participate in exhibitions in and around Houston. Finding appropriate venues and representation can be difficult with established arts organizations. At ArtStorm, we've developed a simple strategy for creating shows and events we're proud to bring to the masses: we display art that appeals to us as fellow artists, and we showcase talent that we think deserves acknowledgement and recognition.

ArtStorm hopes its inaugural year will bring a wide range of art and media to the forefront of the Houston art scene. Our future exhibitions include work by artists who share common exploratory interests, in alternative photography, site-specific murals, and a fresh perspective on Arts and Crafts.

We'll keep you plugged in to all of the up-and-coming art and artists in Houston this year. Stay Tuned!

Yours,  
ArtStorm