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Crowds hooked on crochet

Nasher exhibit just one reason of many to head downtown; Talley Dunn Gallery offers Chihuly in a new light

ART NOTES



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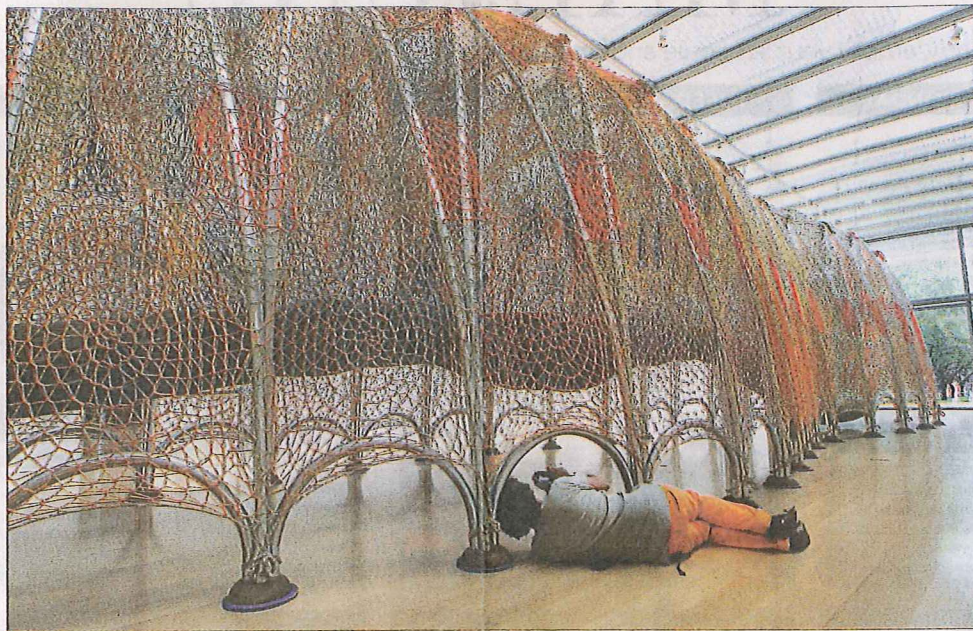
There are many reasons to go downtown, not the least of which is Ernesto Neto's flamboyant exhibition at the Nasher Sculpture Center, which is not so immersed in invading light that it's forgetting how to stage a cool new show. My mom used to subscribe to a magazine called *Crochet Fantasy*. Neto's show is one big crochet fantasy.

It's interactive, playful and quite different, and crowds are beginning to flock to it the same way they did Martin Creed's successful balloon invasion.

Right next door is "Youth and Beauty: Art of the American Twenties," which runs through next Sunday at the Dallas Museum of Art. And across Flora Street from the Nasher is "Noble Change: Tantric Art of the High Himalaya," which runs through Feb. 10, at the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

But you don't have to go to the big museums to get a sampling of art worth seeing. The McKinney Avenue Contemporary has done a very smart thing by staging alternative shows at Mercantile Coffeehouse, its cleverly selected downtown space.

Betsy Williamson's "Re-



Ernesto Neto takes photographs of his artwork, *Kink*, which invites visitors to explore its passageways of crocheted rope, at the Nasher Sculpture Center. The exhibit, "Cuddle on the Tightrope," is on view through Sept. 9.

writing Art History" is the new show at the Mercantile, running through June 23. The MAC calls it part of its outreach program. If that's not enough to lure you, the Mercantile also promises premium coffee made with "the best coffee beans of 2011, Intelligentsia," along with smoothies and frozen yogurt.

The controversy swirling around the Nasher and that persistent glare from Museum Tower has thrown new light, if you will, on Dallas architecture, a subject discussed at length during the



Colleen Borsh and Jacques Haba walk through Neto's installation, which is drawing crowds.

Photos by David Woo/Staff Photographer

recent David Dillon Symposium.

It's timely that the Dallas Center for Architecture has chosen to stage an exhibition dubbed "Lost Dallas." According to its presenters, the show "explores those buildings, neighborhoods and places that have been lost and even forgotten since the city's modest beginnings in the 1840s."

The show begins Monday and runs through June 29 at the Dallas Center for Architecture, 1909 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Suite 100. It's free and open to the

public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Dallas Arboretum is not the only venue hosting a new show by glass sculptor Dale Chihuly. Talley Dunn Gallery — which represents Chihuly and whose owner, Talley Dunn, played a leading role in landing his works at the arboretum — is hosting its own Chihuly exhibition through Aug. 18. This, of course, is an indoor show, which puts an entirely different slant on his elaborate glass sculptures, which are drawing big crowds to the arboretum.

The Kimbell Art Museum is presenting a pair of films next Sunday to accompany its exhibition "The Age of Impressionism: Great French Paintings From the Clark," which runs through June 17. *The Impressionists: Monet and The Impressionists: Renoir* are part of the Fort Worth museum's free film series and are each 50 minutes long.

Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden is worth a visit any time of year, but its new show puts the focus on sculpture, some of which already adorn its lush outdoor garden. "Deborah Ballard: Alter Ego" opens today, along with "The Figure," a group exhibition with works by, among others, Barnaby Fitzgerald, Sedrick Huckaby, Hadar Sobol and Miguel Zapata.

Today's opening includes a reception and garden party from 1 to 4 p.m.