

Art Notes: The Nasher picks City Hall for 10th XChange site



/Dallas Museum of Art
European School; Portrait of an artist in his studio, c. 1800; European School; Oil on canvas; Framed: 24 1/2 x 19 1/4 x 2 ? inches; Dallas Museum of Art, gift of Michael L. Rosenberg Foundation.



Michael Granberry

Arts and Features

mgranberry@dallasnews.com

Officials for the Nasher Sculpture Center took to the steps of City Hall last week to complete the lineup for the Nasher XChange program, which celebrates the center's 10th anniversary this fall.

Nasher XChange consists of 10 art projects, scattered around Dallas, with Rachel Harrison's sculptural finale designated for the I.M. Pei-designed City Hall. There, Harrison will make her first foray into public art by constructing a giant pink arrow, which she will point at an existing work of art, Henry Moore's 1978 sculpture *The Dallas Piece*.

Harrison got the idea during a visit, when she was reportedly taken aback to see Moore's outdoor creation encircled by metal barricades.

Hers is the 10th and final project. All will be completed and visible during the official time frame of the Nasher's celebration, which lasts from Oct. 19 to Feb. 16, 2014.

The chosen:

—Ruben Ochoa's Trinity River Audubon Center piece is welcome on many levels. For one, it raises awareness about a part of Dallas, near Pleasant Grove, that too few people know anything about.

—In Vickery Meadow, Rick Lowe has picked a neighborhood near Skillman and Northwest Highway where 28 languages are routinely spoken.

—Ugo Rondinone is designing a brightly colored pier at Fish Trap Lake in West Dallas, not far from the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge.

—Los Angeles-based artist Liz Larner will construct a mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture in the courtyard of the new \$60 million Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building at the University of Texas at Dallas.

—New York artist Alfredo Jaar will record the cries of newborns to make a statement in the garden of the Nasher Sculpture Center.

—The Good/Bad Art Collective, which began at the University of North Texas, zeroes in on downtown's Bryan Tower to make its statement.

—During the year of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s march in Washington, D.C., Vicki Meek focuses on the history and African-American heritage of Bishop College, now known as Paul Quinn College.

—Charles Long goes to NorthPark Center, which Raymond Nasher founded in 1965, for the installation of a virtual fountain that will raise money for three local children's charities, to which Nasher's daughter has already given a combined \$30,000.

—Lara Almarcegui ventures to Exeter Avenue in Oak Cliff to design a project on the site of an abandoned house, where Habitat for Humanity will eventually build a new house.

—Harrison's arrow at City Hall, built in 1978, also takes aim at Dallas' broader effort to reimagine the future of the city through bold city planning in the wake of President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

The Dallas Museum of Art has a new acquisition. It is *Portrait of an Artist in His Studio*, which DMA officials call “a fine example of a type of small-scale portraiture that flourished during the 1780s and 1790s in Europe.”

They don’t know the identity of the painter or the sitter in the piece, which was acquired by Heather MacDonald, the associate curator of European art.

“This portrait is an exciting and novel addition to a strong group of late-18th century European paintings in the DMA’s collections, and will help us tell the international history of art during this period, with special attention to Rome as a node of contact and transmission of ideas and fashions,” MacDonald said.