



## FrontRow



# This Week's Visual Art: Ten Years of the Nasher Sculpture Center

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This Saturday the much-anticipated **Nasher XChange** exhibition opens at locations around Dallas. **As we mentioned Monday**, the show is one part of an unprecedented and enormous number of new works of public art opening in Dallas this weekend. The Nasher's project, however, is a singular achievement, both in terms of the stature of the artists involved and the variety and number of locations around Dallas that will be included. For more on the project, you can check out **our roundup** of all the events, or **our individual pieces on each of the projects**. For a more in depth look at Rick Lowe's social sculpture in Vickery Meadow, **here's a feature from the October 2013 D Magazine**.

In the midst of all of the excitement over the Nasher's public art initiative, the fact that this the tenth anniversary of the museum has almost skipped attention. That's fitting for the character of the Nasher's under director Jeremy Strick, who, throughout his tenure, has been keen to place art front and center in everything the institution does. **Christina**

**Rees hits the nail on the head** in her recent piece in *FD Luxe* about Strick and his wife Wendy's particular influence on the museum and the city:

[T]he Stricks have brought with them a mix of relaxed charm and intellectual curiosity, which endears them to most everyone they meet. They are fully engaged. If Dallas' young artists are staging an event anywhere in the city and the Stricks are in town, you can count on seeing their black Prius glide up. If a movie about them were being cast, Wendy would be played by Meryl Streep — inquisitive, witty and psychologically, almost unnervingly, astute — and Jeremy would be played by the late great Peter Sellers: ever observant, quietly precise in speech and in movement, and an aficionado of both abstract thought and absurdity. With their two grown children, Adam and Amanda, pursuing their studies in other states, the Stricks have settled into One Arts Plaza, which makes for an easy walk to work for Jeremy and a Woody Allen-esque style of living for them both. They are both aces in the kitchen and they entertain at home with a casual panache honed over years of travel and good conversation.

This same sensibility informs the Nasher Sculpture Center's excellent opening parties, which make terrific use of the Nasher's peaceful, sculpture-filled garden designed by architect Peter Walker. These gatherings are awash in the most interesting — and genuinely interested — culture lovers in Dallas. Top collectors and board members mingle with artists, curators with students, academics with journalists and gallerists. In a city of institutions still learning that contemporary-art fans come in all stripes, only the Nasher has managed to resolutely bring these different tiers together on a regular, matter-of-fact basis. In fact, the whole outfit pulses with intelligence and inclusiveness. Since Strick's arrival, exhibitions have reflected a steady stream of worldly energy not found often enough in Dallas-Fort Worth's art scene. . . . The shows are crowd-pleasers, but with scholarship credibility intact. . . . They reflect a true salon culture that is rare in Dallas and often lost to larger institutions.

Raise a glass to the Nasher this weekend.