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# Book of Magdalene Offers a New Take on an Old Saint

JANUARY 15, 2021 | 4:00AM



Yasmin Alibishah as Ru in *The Book of Magdalene* at Main Street Productions

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### [The Book of Magdalene Offers a New Take on an Old Saint](#)

[Controversial "Arab Murder Simulator" Coming to Consoles](#)

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TOP STORIES



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il, and now sainted, Magdalene has sloughed quite a journey during the thousand years. As a disciple of Christ, she followed his ministry, saw him die, buried, and was the first to witness his resurrection. When the patriarchy and church fathers thought of her, she was usually rebooted into a repentant whore.

Gregory the Great, now also known as Gregory I, pointed that to her in a series of letters in 591 A.D. when he changed all the references to “sinful women” who had no association to Jesus – the woman dragged before Christ at the trial, the woman with the ointment, the woman with the alms” who anointed his feet and dried them with her hair.

THE BOOK OF

we know today. To this  
mains sinful but blessed.

and premiere *The Book of*  
; streaming currently at  
t Theater, playwright  
ich plays a jazzy riff on  
ied reputation and  
o repentance.

**ORIES**

***of Magdalene Premieres at  
et Theater in a Time of***

*advertisement*  
content.



**Helps Women Wipe  
inkles off Their Face**



**il: Can You "Opt Out" Of  
IS System?**

**J.S. SYSTEM:**

urch

th one gimlet eye firmly  
 or current predicament,  
 s, filmed at Main Street,  
 e pandemic's ubiquitous  
 ks are worn when  
 are not socially  
 and there's a large  
 l plexiglas screen which  
 he two former lovers.  
 the masks, this physical  
 orks exceedingly well  
 ince our protagonist Len  
 Vang), a rather  
 t sex phone worker, is  
 anced from all around  
 called a “lone bird”  
 times.

stopian future where  
 afraid to step outdoors,  
 or Elder (Maria  
 a sly all-knowing earth  
 plete with homilies of  
 heir prickly, yet all too  
 ationship defines the  
 thick woolen overlay,  
 ck walks away with the  
 ffy combo of the  
 ewish stage mother and  
 uela. She knows things  
 t possibly know about  
 etches and makes  
 ements about the

of the world, and she  
 adas. In a nod toward  
 ism, a giant one,  
 and lit from within,  
 om under her chair and  
 er before scratching her  
 its feeler. It's a delightful  
 hose meaning alludes

Ru (Mariam Albishah,  
 arthy) is leaving town  
 n't go with her. She's  
 one and prefers that  
 t work, with headsets  
 round her chair, she  
 uit (Pablo Bracho,  
 i off-putting Joker-type  
 o's threatening to cut  
 e's as lonely as Len, but  
 ner distance, cold and  
 ate. Her work name is  
 e. Later at church, Priest  
 ronell) delves into  
 istory and ties her to Len.  
 s are seen as sinners,"  
 earily. "Jesus saw  
 r...he got her," the priest  
 set in an archway of  
 venly lit by Grey  
 ith bold provocative  
 aneh Aayani), the scene  
 ut comforts, also. Len,  
 is been touched by Suit.  
 to her.

away to redemption,

The Reveler (Albishah  
 ssed as some outcast  
 -very-good Pippin

1. She wears a tattered  
 ny colors, spangled red  
 attered top hat, and  
 red leather boots. She's  
 sight as she tempts Len  
 ew tomorrow." But the  
 zily written, and  
 oo obvious or not  
 ough. I couldn't tell.  
 ant cicada puppet, the  
 oks great but reads

id a kind of redemption  
 r acknowledgment of  
 o others. She gives up  
 it of her drinking, and  
 re-armed for the first  
 lly she wears a shawl  
 ead, like a medieval icon  
 d as a saintly statue.  
 ut, the costumes by  
 colette Gist are tasty  
 rful.) "Hope is easy to  
 sy to do," winks wise  
 has found the first steps  
 rst ache of morning

ma, though placed in  
 echoes from earlier  
 : downtown avant-garde  
 f-Broadway. She knows

ry well, winning an Obie  
 Lifetime Achievement.  
 ally regarded and  
 or her translations of  
 leron, and Lope de Vega.  
 nt adaptation of Isabel  
*House of the Spirits*  
 n equally fragrant Main  
 luction in 2009.

ocative writer,  
 poetry through her  
 i savory doses. The  
 cquered,” birds fly “as  
 ye.” With smooth  
 y Amelia Rico and the  
 resting video  
 i team Ricornel, along  
 ft stoicism from Maria  
 Elder, *The Book of*  
 ; if not quite  
 ng, is certainly of this  
 voman from Magdala  
 another homily.

*f Magdalene. Online*  
*l be available through*  
*. Purchase your tickets by*  
*ceive your viewing code by*  
*ame day. Your 48-hour*  
*nd begins after entering*  
*code. For more*  
*n visit*  
*theater.com. Pay what you*  
 54.

started the *Houston Press*, it defined as the free, independent voice of Houston, and we want to keep it that way. Offering readers free access to incisive coverage of local news, food and culture, producing stories on everything from political scandals to the hottest new bands, with gutsy reporting, stylish writing, and staffers who cover everything from the Texas State Fair to the Houston Professional Journalists' Association's Ta Chi feature-writing award. But with local journalism's future under siege and advertising revenue setbacks having a larger impact than ever, it is important now more than ever to rally support behind independent local journalism. You can help by participating in our "I Support" membership program, allowing us to continue bringing Houston with no

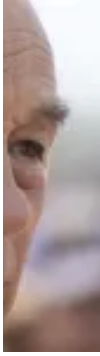
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D.L. Groover has contributed to countless reputable publications including the *Houston Press* since 2003. His theater criticism has earned him a national award from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia (AAN) as well as three statewide Lone Star Press Awards for the same. He's co-author of the irreverent appreciation, *Skeletons from the Opera Closet* (St. Martin's Press), now in its fourth printing.



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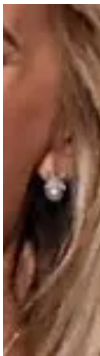
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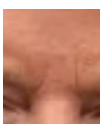
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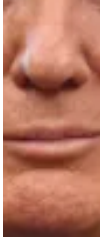


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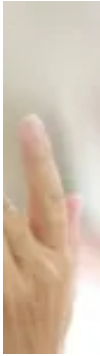


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We





**Claim  
e Coin**



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les off**



**Doing**

# Serial “Arab Simulator” to Consoles

April 16, 2021 | 4:00AM



use of a PS5. / Photo by Jef Rouner

CON  
S

SUPPORT U



*Fallujah*, a game that is  
red to as an “Arab  
nulator,” is being  
n consoles after years of  
y and backlash.

ere American soldiers  
s waves of Arab enemy  
s are nothing new, and  
up some major  
like *Call of Duty*. In a lot  
[“just shoot the Arab”](#) is  
ous as “just jump over  
e popularity of this sub-  
deteriorated over the  
e due to public backlash  
Islamophobia.

it’s appropriate that *Six  
lujah* has been sitting  
development hell since  
e time it was first  
d, it was going to be the  
to directly reference the  
q War, though that ship  
sly sailed since.

it was to be published  
l, but growing criticism  
rayal of Arabs in gaming  
ompany dropping the  
riginal studio, Atomic  
nt bankrupt in 2011.

*advertisement*  
ntent.





### Cry For Help: 3 Warning Dog Is Crying For Help

com



### al: Can You "Opt Out" Of J.S. System?

irch

u new studio called  
James picked up the  
is due to release the  
onsoles and PC this year.  
re would be interested  
-year-old tactical  
at never sounded that  
to being with now is  
e and re-inventing the  
ngoistic impulses of the  
d in 2021 seems like  
adness.

oups, including the  
. American-Islamic  
has spoken out against  
of the title. It uses a

le that killed more than  
civilians as a backdrop.  
nd Battle of Fallujah,  
States military  
white phosphorus  
weapons that later led to  
babies being born with  
ts. It was, by all  
a nightmare in which  
d some horrific things  
bating insurgents.

ng industry must stop  
zing Muslims,” said  
arch and Advocacy  
or Huzaifa Shahbaz in a  
“Video games like *Six  
lujah* only serve to  
ence that took the lives  
ls of Iraqi civilians,  
Iraq war, and reinforce  
m sentiment at a time  
Muslim bigotry  
to threaten human life.”

e that the game will  
nd of titles like *Spec Ops*:  
nd attempt to address  
s of war instead of  
t, but even that game  
nsily and in a way that  
vered players in their  
est. More likely, it’s yet  
venture where we focus  
rd killing foreigners and  
olor is on Americans

not addressing why we  
 e first place.

ost surprising about the  
 it's actually making it  
 ores for PlayStation and  
 and-paste military  
 ith racist bents are a  
 en on Steam, but Sony  
 soft are known for being  
 cautions what they  
 sale (Sony's weird  
 p with hawking  
 / broken Gilson B.  
 nes aside). A game that  
 despread condemnation  
 os like CAIR and war  
 or so long is an odd title  
 hat sort of clout behind,  
 ive to wonder if the  
 cision makers looked  
 than the fact that  
 evelopers of *Halo* were

CAIR is petitioning Sony  
 soft to deny the release  
 ores. Frankly, the world  
 eed another Arab  
 nulator that,  
 lly or not, further  
 zes a marginalized  
 erica and makes a  
 r based on government  
 adass. At a time when  
 nsoles can render nearly  
 ith uncanny accuracy

with uncanny accuracy, worth would we waste that piece of our country's worst moments?

### THE HOUSTON PRESS FREE...

When I started the *Houston Press*, it was defined as the free, independent voice of Houston, and we wanted to keep it that way. Offering readers free access to incisive reporting of local news, food and culture, producing stories on everything from political scandals to the latest new bands, with gutsy reporting, stylish writing, and staffers covering everything from the Houston Professional Journalists' Association's Ta Chi feature-writing award to the Pulitzer Prize Medal for Meritorious Journalism. But with local journalism's future under siege and advertising revenue setbacks having a larger impact than ever, it is important now more than ever to rally support behind independent local journalism. You can help by participating in our "I Support Journalism" program, allowing us to continue bringing Houston with no

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**Jef Rouser** is a contributing writer who covers politics, pop culture, social justice, video games, and online behavior. He is often a professional annoyance to the ignorant and hurtful.

**CONTACT:**  
[Jef Rouser](#)

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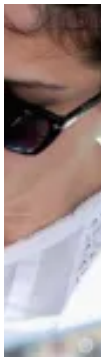
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### Upcoming Events

Mark Norm...

Kevonstage...

TICKETS

Fri

TICKETS

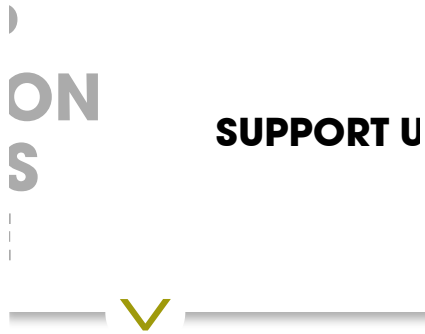
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<b>Chris Kattan</b>	<b>Jay Pharoah</b>
<b>TICKETS</b> Wed., Jul. 28, 7:30pm	<b>TICKETS</b> Fri., Sep. 10, 7:30pm
<b>Esther Povit...</b>	<b>Ronny Chie...</b>
<b>TICKETS</b> Thu., Aug. 26, 8:00pm	<b>TICKETS</b> Sat., Sep. 11, 6:00pm
<b>Cyber Chat ...</b>	<b>Brian Regan</b>
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<a href="#">See More &gt;&gt;</a>	

# 's Largest ings 1 To Food y

2021 | 4:30AM



ention to the fight against food insecurity. /  
id



ore destination to  
Houston's growing list  
nd Instagram-worthy  
a mural, curated by  
for Mankind, is now on  
r at Hampton Inn and  
d Suites Houston  
l's five-story, 250-foot  
ed on the back of the  
ituated on Crawford  
usk and Capitol. It's the  
ral in the city, and it has  
ger story behind it.

s aim is to raise  
and mobilize support to  
ing United States and  
l insecurity, especially in  
conomic fallout of the  
The project is part of an  
ort to bring attention to  
rt for the United Nations  
ger" campaign. It is one  
als that dot the country,  
ocations in New  
akland, Calif.,  
n, Detroit and Battle  
h.

for Mankind's Co-  
 adrey Decker explained,  
 murals around the  
 rise awareness on the  
 social justice. People are  
 r at risk in connection  
 and the pandemic has  
 orse. This mural raises  
 n the local level."

**ORIES**

---

**fluence" of Art and Nature  
 Greenway Trail**

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**il: Can You "Opt Out" Of  
 J.S. System?**

irch



**porters: Claim Your Free**

## Coin

---

l States has been hit  
 preceded hunger  
 ell, as the pandemic's  
 gered unemployment,  
 is, and widespread food  
 Considering Houston's  
 nics, the numbers hit  
 er. According to data  
 .S. Department of  
 e, African-Americans  
 s likely to face hunger  
 panic, Caucasian  
 s.

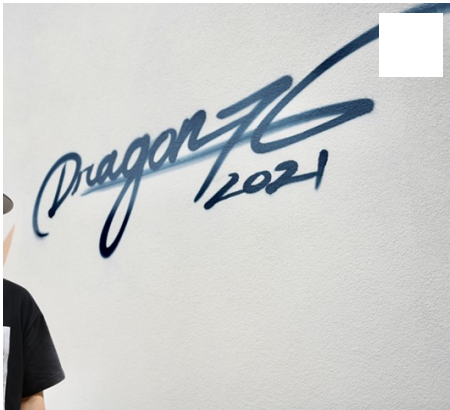
to bringing awareness  
 ral, Street Art for  
 s working with Kellogg  
 to donate on local levels  
 against food insecurity.  
 dy made a \$10,000  
 o [Ivy Leaf Farms](#),  
 Houston's Sunnyside.

ie mural to fruition,  
 or Mankind first needed  
 the art. Enter Josh  
 neral Manager of  
 nn and Homewood  
 ston Downtown. (No  
 Audrey Decker)

tle exciting and a little  
 eive a call out of the blue  
 neone want to paint the

building. I was intrigued  
 d. Hilton has strong ties  
 ed Nations and the ‘Zero  
 ovement as well as  
 our community in a  
 ay,” Decker said. “Once  
 understanding of what  
 proposed and we saw  
 ing, we were blown  
 ouldn’t possibly pass up  
 unity to impact our  
 y in a positive way.  
 ed to be a part of it,  
 eness. And with a wall  
 There’s no way it won’t  
 eness for the ‘Zero  
 ovement.”

the murals can use  
 or Mankind’s free  
 e Wall” app to scan or  
 h the mural, instantly  
 more details about the  
 hunger crisis, and how  
 ion globally and locally.



artist behind Houston's largest mural. /  
**Art for Mankind**

creating a piece of work  
 requires a tremendous

Street Art for Mankind  
the artist [Dragon76](#),  
human faces and buzz  
evoked the story behind  
the artwork.

Dragon76 said, “The idea is to have  
a mural that portrays the  
diversity of the community. I’m trying to show  
unity with the facial  
expressions and the words on their  
lips... Also, I’m looking for  
to get the idea of  
inclusion. People from many  
backgrounds can exist together to  
and interact with each

other. The mural  
needed goes without its  
size, though. For Dragon76,  
the size of the mural proved  
to be a significant  
hurdle to overcome.

One of the most  
challenging parts of the  
project was the  
size. It’s the largest I’ve  
ever done. I couldn’t estimate  
how much material it would need.  
Time was also the concern of time. I  
needed six weeks to complete the  
project, but he wasn’t sure how  
long it would take to  
complete the area,” he said.

For this  
issue, he brought his  
team to work on the area  
and a total of four relatives  
and an additional support team

ople will look at the wall  
something positive from  
Hopefully they take a  
post to the world to  
the idea of world hunger.  
it makes them think of  
ger.' I think this is a good  
to get more people to  
t food justice and  
they get something  
om this Earth,"  
said.

ow, though, grab the  
and find the right  
ting for your next social  
to in front of Street Art  
id's masterpiece.

*is located at Hampton  
mewood Suites Houston  
710 Crawford. For more  
n, visit Street Art for  
project, visit  
[inkind.org/zero-hunger](http://inkind.org/zero-hunger).*

#### **THE HOUSTON PRESS FREE...**

started the *Houston Press*, it  
defined as the free,  
ent voice of Houston, and we  
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rs free access to incisive  
of local news, food and  
roducing stories on  
g from political scandals to  
t new bands, with gutsy  
stylish writing, and staffers  
on everything from the  
Professional Journalists'  
to Chi feature-writing award



...a literature-writing award  
 ey Medal for Meritorious  
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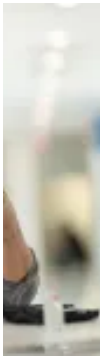
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**Sam Byrd** is a  
 freelance contributor  
 to the *Houston Press*  
 who loves to take in  
 all of Houston's sights,  
 sounds, food and fun.  
 He also loves helping  
 others to discover  
 Houston's rich culture.

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# y Green evitalized ce

2021 | 4:30AM



watch their kids. / Photo by Jef Rouner

ON  
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**SUPPORT U**

g in full bloom and  
 still confined to  
 activities despite the  
 occupancy  
 s, Discovery Green has  
 as a fantastic reason to  
 ohn P. McGovern  
 d has finally finished its  
 n renovations and is  
 e public after a year  
 ed due to COVID.

us playground was  
 e, but somewhat cold  
 When the renovations  
 019, it was already clear  
 on's flagship urban park  
 need of a facelift  
 ng only 11 years old.  
 y Hargreaves Jones  
 , with consultation by  
 architect Lauren Griffith  
 2 Lighting Design and  
 on by Forney  
 on LLC, it's now  
 that adds a lot of value  
 wntown.

ie who spent about  
 s bribing my daughter  
 round trips so that I  
 ome writing done, I've  
 lot of the city's  
 :. While the kid is now  
 means test them on my  
 ill know a good  
 d when I see one.

*advertisement*  
 content.



**Helms Women Wine**

# Helps Women Wipe Wrinkles off Their Face



## Can You "Opt Out" Of U.S. System?

Arch



need a little help crossing the obstacles. / inner

Discovery Green's  
 area as a solid A minus.  
 lly, it's a climbers' park  
 a make-believe  
 e structures are blue  
 a soft landing area to  
 l damage. It's almost  
 7 rope climbs and spider  
 has only two slides.  
 ot really any platforms,  
 ns that kids have to be  
 in motion. Normally, I

g that as making the  
as less dynamic, but  
Green itself has so many  
emplative and calm  
es right next to the  
d that it makes up for  
t the ground. Still, it's a  
nat there are no  
s or other hidden  
n the sky for kids to  
eir own.

le ones, there is the  
endez Play Space. It  
any of the same basic  
out much closer to the  
xe its big brother, it's an  
park meant for climbing  
ing. It also has a helpful,  
shoe-shaped wall for  
eedy toddlers from  
away.

new playground really  
parent comfort. Amble  
s and shade from trees  
reat place to park  
hile your kids ran off the  
ir energy. Even the  
nt wall in the Mendez  
enough to rest on.





space to burn off energy. / **Photo by Jef**

; the new playground is  
 ind children up and let  
 hile you take a small  
 half an hour of braving  
 g up and down rope  
 I likely take the edge off  
 a so that you can talk  
 a nice walk around the  
 e or maybe lunch at the  
 1. While I would still  
 ew playspace at the  
 rboretum as the best of  
 zed city playgrounds,  
 Green is a close second.  
 ith everything else you  
 foot in the area, it's a  
 o spend a day off. When  
 oy to take pictures on  
 ay, clearly a lot of people  
 , too.

*Green is open daily from 6  
 n. The playground is  
 he northwest corner at the  
 i of La Branch and  
 For further information,  
[everyGreen.com](http://www.everyGreen.com). Free, with  
 rking.*





case their kids fall, but the ground is  
by **Jef Rouner**

**THE HOUSTON PRESS FREE...**  
started the *Houston Press*, it  
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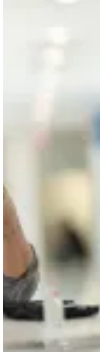
**Jef Rouner** is a  
contributing writer  
who covers politics,  
pop culture, social  
justice, video games,  
and online behavior.  
He is often a  
professional  
annoyance to the  
ignorant and hurtful.

**CONTACT:**



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## Upcoming Events

**Mark Norm...**

**TICKETS**

Thu., Jul. 22,  
8:00pm

**Kevonstage...**

**Fri., TICKETS**

Aug. 27,  
7:30pm

**Chris Kattan**

**TICKETS**

Wed., Jul. 28,  
7:30pm

**Jay Pharoah**

**Fri., TICKETS**

Sep. 10,  
7:30pm

**Esther Povit...**

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**Ronny Chie...**

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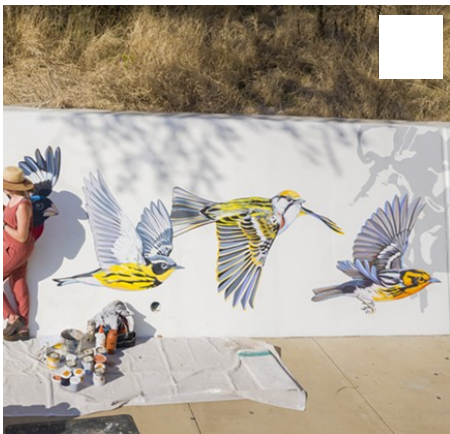
**TICKETS**

Sat., Oct. 2,  
8:00pm

[See More >>](#)

# Confluence" d Nature on Greenway

APRIL 9, 2021 | 7:17AM



along the Bayou Greenway trail. / **Photo**  
**Parks Board**



-long mural, painted  
 Bayou Greenway trail  
 University of Houston-  
 's One Main Building,  
 the 12-month story of  
 migratory birds. It  
 and like a tall order, until  
 the person behind said  
 the same person  
 for a [3,000-square-](#)  
[depicting all 243 families](#)  
[birds.](#)

artist Jane Kim, co-  
 San Francisco's [Ink](#)  
 studio and muralist behind  
 the ed "Wall of Birds" at the  
 building of Ornithology, there's  
 a wildcard.

in Houston weather, I still can't  
 get out," says Kim with a  
 smile. "The morning we'll start  
 wearing fingerless gloves, hats,  
 coats, because it's only 50  
 degrees, and then half an hour  
 peeling off all our

baking.”

## ORIES

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### Largest Mural Brings To Food Insecurity

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*advertisement*

ntent.



### Helps Women Wipe inkles off Their Face



### al: Can You "Opt Out" Of J.S. System?

irch

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is month Kim and her  
uered the city’s weather  
to put the finishing  
“**Confluence**”, the  
lition to Houston’s  
scene. Commissioned by

arks Board and hosted  
 lo Bayou Partnership,  
 named for the way birds  
 or seasonally to attract  
 v graces the stretch of  
 ie confluence of White  
 uffalo Bayou.

is of bringing Kim to  
 owever, actually began  
 when she met Laura and  
 1 – “Very big bird fans,”  
 who saw the “Wall of  
 ou’re wondering the  
 1, Tom Bacon is  
 Emeritus of the  
 arks Board and serves  
 nistrative Board at  
 b of Ornithology.

he approached the  
 asking, “What’s the  
 in Houston?” And the  
 ouston, according to  
 r migratory birds, which  
 ity every spring and fall.



orks on the installation of her mural  
 photo by **Anthony Rathbun, Houston Parks**

n mind, Kim designed

re” as a mirror image of  
 rds, each from a  
 species at different times  
 , though Kim admits  
 re” doesn’t necessarily  
 mirror image because of  
 at colorations on each  
 e left side of the mural,  
 are depicted in their  
 eding plumage. On the  
 i their fall non-breeding  
 hich, because they  
 entral and South  
 re’re often not lucky  
 see.

it would be a great way  
 at nature moves beyond  
 re presently, that there’s  
 ory that’s happening  
 ” says Kim.

r deep dive into the  
 atory birds, Kim is quick  
 it that she’s no expert.  
 re worked closely with  
[udubon](#) to pick the six  
 tured on the mural,  
 for the ones that have  
 ontrast between their  
 nd non-breeding

ise falls definitely in my  
 nes and my ability to  
 s Kim.

the birds of  
 e,” a familiar old adage  
 elf true yet again:  
 is bigger in Texas.  
 birds drawn to scale at  
 m says those of  
 e” are “larger than life,”  
 a challenge to make  
 irds” while maintaining  
 cientific accuracy.

nt to do an  
 ion of one of these  
 ays Kim, whose  
 d is in both fine arts and  
 lustration. Though not  
 their natural setting,  
 is important to her to  
 capture the  
 ts, subject matter, and  
 racter of her subjects for  
 e reason: She wants  
 e able to recognize  
 when they’re out and

ut, if anything, the best  
 t that I get is when  
 ays, ‘Oh, I can see the  
 all the time now.’ That’s  
 ecial gift that I feel I can  
 gh this art, and if it  
 ebody’s eyes to be able  
 out in the world then I  
 e work is done,” says  
 lone the work that I  
 to do ”



Arts completion along the Bayou Greenway  
**Anthony Rathbun, Houston Parks Board**

“Confluence” will help  
curiosity to learn a little  
at these birds, which can  
ked despite being part  
ric of your outdoor and  
erience.”

at it can be very easy to  
e] for granted because  
been there,” says Kim.  
easy to just tune it out.”

s-long installation of  
e” is any indication,  
ady finding success. She  
egulars in the area are  
opping, some  
; “how much this mural  
to them and feeling like,  
sh, I want to pick up  
nd this bayou now and  
care of this stretch of

of that ties into what I  
hope people get away  
ys Kim. “It’s not



the story or the  
it just that they care they  
their surroundings.”

“I think that that’s a  
role of art, to be able to  
the things they might not  
see.”

serving of a break  
the installation of  
e,” Houstonians can  
d that Kim says she  
ever tire of  
ing birds” and, in fact, is a  
t they weren’t able to  
city’s resident birds.

ng my fingers [that  
object] will actually pull  
me time in the future,”  
“We do have some birds  
ouston that are very  
t are here year round.”

ntime, Kim says she’s  
t good vibes, and you  
you drive, bike, walk  
see “Confluence.”

*e” is located under the  
of Houston-Downtown’s  
e Main Building along  
Greenway trail. Parking is  
i the UHD Academic  
isitor Parking Garage, 201  
et.*

**FREE HOUSTON PRESS...**

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**Natalie de la Garza**

is a contributing writer who adores all things pop culture and longs to know everything there is to know about the Houston arts and culture scene.

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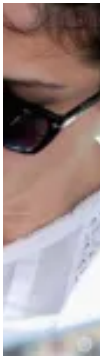
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