

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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**The Contemporary Opens Fall Season with David Bates, Legend Award Artist**

**David Bates: Legend Award Artist August 15, 2003, 8 ~ 9 pm public opening  
August 15 ~ October 4, 2003**

**Mix! artist: Sara Cardona** funded by Texas Commission on the Arts

**David Bates**, this year's **Legend Award Artist**, will be honored with a one-person show in the main gallery at The Contemporary from **August 15 ~ October 4, 2003**. The exhibition will include monumental wood reliefs and paintings created over the past 20 years. While much has been discussed regarding Bates' choice of subject matter and his passion for specific motifs, it is perhaps the formal aspects of his work that are most captivating. When reflecting on Bates' career thus far, one is impressed by his endless desire to depict his subjects in an ever-changing style. This insatiable need to experiment with a range of materials and techniques while exploring the underlying formal issues of art making has defined his work over the course of his career. Bringing work together for the first time, this exhibition will juxtapose figurative paintings with landscapes and still-lives with self portraits from the early 1980s to 2003.

A Dallas native and Southern Methodist University alumnus, Bates' career ignited following his inclusion in the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. In 1984 Bates participated in his first important national exhibition, *The 38<sup>th</sup> Corcoran Biennial of American Paintings, Second Western States Exhibition* at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC. In addition to the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Bates' work appears in permanent collections across the country, including the Dallas Museum of Art; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

**Mix! Artist Sara Cardona**

Showing concurrently will be the work of **Sara Cardona** as a fitting welcome to the Latino Cultural Center's opening. Cardona's robust colored self portraits, painted on patterned fabric, are a Latina's foil to Bates' figures. Her highly charged images with text bubbles deal with the multiplicity of language and attest to the *Series'* focus of ethnically diverse artists.

**The Contemporary** is located in the Wilson Historic District, three blocks east of Good Latimer on the north edge of Deep Ellum, and is free and open to the public Tuesday – Saturday from 10 – 5 pm. For information, call 214-821-2522 or [info@thecontemporary.net](mailto:info@thecontemporary.net).