

WAKE
THE ZINE NO.7



ABOUT

Wake the Zine is a monthly DIY publication that gets the word out about local music shows in Galveston. We distribute primarily through MOD Coffeehouse. Huge thank you to our volunteer team and local sponsors!

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NO.7

Wake the Zine / May 2016

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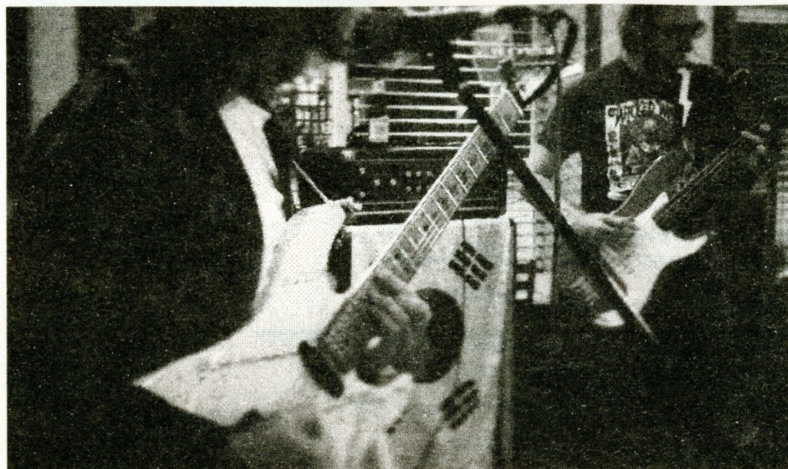
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Hand-picked Galveston event list

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DIY ISLAND



*Harvey, a new local band, rocking their first show at Drunken Monkeyz on April Fools' Day. No fooling, Galveston has the makings of a great scene! Looking back on the first half-dozen issues of **Wake**, Galveston's first DIY music zine, Lauren talks about the scene.*

Zines are great, but this publication was not inspired by zines. It was inspired by two publications I have never read: *The Double Dealer* from New Orleans in the 1920s and *The International Times* out of London in the 1960s. I read about one in a book and saw the other in a documentary. Even from that distance, I caught the general drift: an underground, self-made print publication can help a scene thrive.

The need was there. It was so obvious that the shows I enjoyed attending were going invisible, as were the people behind them. (Do we even bother submitting our shows to the local magazines? Does the *Galveston Daily News* know we exist?) Looking at the situation, I had the option of doing nothing or doing it myself. I chose DIY. If you have any love for music--original music and live-show culture especially--I'm asking you to DIY with me!

All I can do is share my own experience. I've been in a local band for less than two years. I've lived in Galveston for maybe three. This zine is only six months old. Even this early on, I can tell you that Galveston *could* be a DIY paradise!

Bands will come here. They already do.

Talk to Pete Heshner. He fronts a band called Gnar World Order and has been bringing in bands from around the world for a minute. France, Japan, the UK, Mexico... in addition to bands from Houston and stateside. We don't have (or really need) a professional booking group. Many of Galveston's local musicians are already inviting national touring acts to town. You can even do it!

Yes, YOU can invite and host bands.

Every time I go to a show off the island, I ask the band, "Hey, would you want to play in Galveston sometime?" They might not know where it is or how to spell it, but hell yes, they want to play in Galveston! I have yet to see a "no" or even a "maybe" so far!

Also, I want you to know that a lot of the small-to-midsize bands *personally* answer their Facebook messages. Tell them how much you love their work and ask them if they want to come to Galveston. It may not work out right this minute, but the next time they are headed this way, they have a lead--especially if you have a place for them to

play. Even better if you have a place for them to crash. The whole thing can even happen in your house!

We don't NEED a "big" venue.

By all means, start that venue and contact me! Until then, we can do this ourselves by creatively, generously using what we do have. Can I tell you about the last two shows I attended? The first one was at Old Quarter in Galveston. There were three bands and I was working the door. I know how much the bands made, and I know it all went directly to the bands. Lee was bartending, holding the entire place down by himself, and Charles (of EL LAGO) stepped up to run sound.

The second show was at Fitzgerald's in Houston. I was told how many ticket sales there were and then did the math. The show brought in about a hundred bucks more than the Old Quarter show. However, the bands only saw *half* of the sales. Please don't get me wrong, there was nothing shady about it. Fitz is a great place with a great team--and they absolutely should be paid for running sound and selling tickets and managing the bar! My point is this: Galveston, *our* way works! The bands who played the Galveston show walked away with more in this showdown.

Of course, it goes way beyond money. Playing in Galveston, bands can and do experience a warmer welcome than some other stops on their tour. The benefit to being a small town is that a lot of the people in the audience already know each other, so shows can feel more like a house party with friends. Bands don't come here every day, so we don't take it for granted. There are also great people here who will offer bands a place to crash and show them around. Bottom line: There is a *reason* bands return year after year! You can be part of that reason.

Remember, this is a college town.

It's been a while, but I actually went to shows in college! Where are you guys?? The fact is, we have *three* colleges here, and I think students will start coming out to more shows when they start catching on and inviting their friends. If there is a cover at all, it's usually ultra-affordable, in case

This is already a tourist destination.

Just think about what would happen if, on top of the other attractions, Galveston was a *music destination*. (Wait until the marketing people pick up on that.) We can start by promoting our shows around town.

We are so close to Houston!

With a comparatively short drive, Houston-based and touring bands can hit a completely different market. That's smart.

Start your own band!!!

There are probably a dozen musicians hanging around MOD Coffeehouse right now. Why the hell aren't you making friends with those people and starting a band? It's not that hard! Get some practice in, come to shows and meet people.

Have a band? Start playing out!

So you have a Bandcamp and maybe an album, for all I know. Why aren't you leaving your house and playing shows?! No one is too good for their local scene, and all of us can benefit from having a network. You will meet great people and hear it first!

Go to a show that isn't your thing.

I understand, I have favorites, too. That said, go experience something new! Take a friend and venture out to a dive or an opera house. Even if you wouldn't normally jam that genre of music, you might surprise yourself and really appreciate the live show. Galveston has some truly eclectic, diverse lineups. There is nothing more hip than that.

Volunteer your skills. Gain new ones.

If you're trying to gain experience in your craft, offer to help out! It's not easy to do it all by yourself. You can probably find a way to help a local band.

Local businesses, book local bands!

I know of a bar that brought in bands from Austin but couldn't fill the room. There were no local bands on that bill! When you add a local as support, you are drawing on an entire network. Don't underestimate their friends and their ability to get the word out. And the more you build and invest in that band by booking them, the more people they will pull.

LISTENING GUIDE



► **"CONTORT / RETREAT" BY STEVE STRONG (BRISTOL, UK)**

loops / post-rock / math rock / ambient
 stevestrongmusic.bandcamp.com



► **"ONE" BY HARVEY (GALVESTON, TX)**

stoner punk / stoner rock / lo-fi / grunge / whatever
 harveytheband.bandcamp.com



INTERVIEW: STEVE STRONG

In anticipation of his first show in Galveston on May 5th at Nu Gruves, Steve Strong fields a few questions from his iPhone. "My fingers are numb," he jokes, answering the questions at breakneck speed. [Considering the iPhone autocorrect butchery, we edited for punctuation.]

Lauren: *Have you played in the US before? Is this your first time visiting Texas?*

I can't wait to eat your food!! All you're really missing in England is a nice roast dinner with duck roast potatoes and veg and gravy!

Steve: This will be my first time in Texas and in the USA and I really cannot wait to come, it's somewhere I've always wanted to come and play but never had an opportunity until now.

Texas had a pretty cool post-rock wave in the 2000s with bands like This Will Destroy You and Explosions in the Sky. A decade after seeing my first post-rock shows in Houston, I feel like it can be a struggle to keep the genre fresh. How do you approach that challenge?

I feel my act alone is quite fresh. It does take elements of post-rock but also hip-hop and electronica, with some ambient shoegaze and math for good measure.

I'm always curious about how Texas looks from across the pond. Do you have some strong impressions about the culture, the people, the landscape?

I have expectations of huge vast deserts, and long drives, hot weather. I've heard that Americans, especially in Texas, are very openminded and like English people, I'm just looking forward to the change in culture, weather and people. I want to bring my sounds to their ears and chat and have beers after.

What bands are you currently stoked about?

Totally stoked on the DIY scene here in the UK with bands like Alright the Captain, Irk, Polymath, Brontide, Tangled Hair and TTNG

I can't wait for you to eat our food!!! What are we missing out on in Texas though?

Big influences are toe (who I'm supporting in August) Squarepusher, Aphex Twin, LITE, and Clarke.

When you toured France this past December, you posted some thoughts on the culture difference. You were really digging the beer and driving on the right side of the road. Did you also feel that France was a friendlier place for musicians than England in some ways?

I think when you tour anywhere that isn't your home country it can feel that way, fresher, and I suppose you hit the towns and cities with an open mind. I found repeatedly that France is really welcoming and attentive to my music and my live act, but same goes for Ireland, Amsterdam, and Belgium and many others.

I read that you have been in bands since you were 14. What instrument did you start out playing? Honestly it's extremely difficult to tell because you are really fantastic on the kit and guitar, watching the live videos!

Drums was my first instrument since I was 13. I am self-taught on both instruments. Guitar I've been playing for seven years now.

I'm sure you have some great people working with you behind the scenes. What partnerships are really driving the project forward right now?



To be honest live-bookings-wise I do it all on my own with help from other bands. dBs Music in Plymouth recorded my album, and I've just spent a year self-employed and played 150 shows and networked and really pushed my live act around Europe. Sapien Records have just agreed to release my new EP, *Lines*.

In your hometown, Plymouth, do you feel really connected to the city and the local scene? I heard you worked at a venue there for a while.

I worked [...] in a few venues ran by friends. I am very passionate about our arts and our city, although I've recently moved back to Bristol to be closer to my daughter and continue my career.

It's pretty exciting that you are making the transition from your full-time job to going full-time as a musician and touring heavily. What triggered that decision?

The decision for quitting my job was that I wanted to push myself musically and have the time to do it all, and also to prove to myself that I don't need a job to make money, that I can get by with my art and passion.

What are your plans for touring after your time in the US?

After this tour I am planning to tour in India, France, Ireland, Belgium, and Amsterdam. Also, the French Alps.

You announced work on a new EP called *Lines* in January. How is that going?

My new EP has been signed to Sapien Records. It will be 6-8 tracks, so more like an album. It is in the mastering process and should be released later this year with a full-blown tour.

"Contort / Retreat" is instrumental, but you sometimes sing. Are there vocals on the new EP?

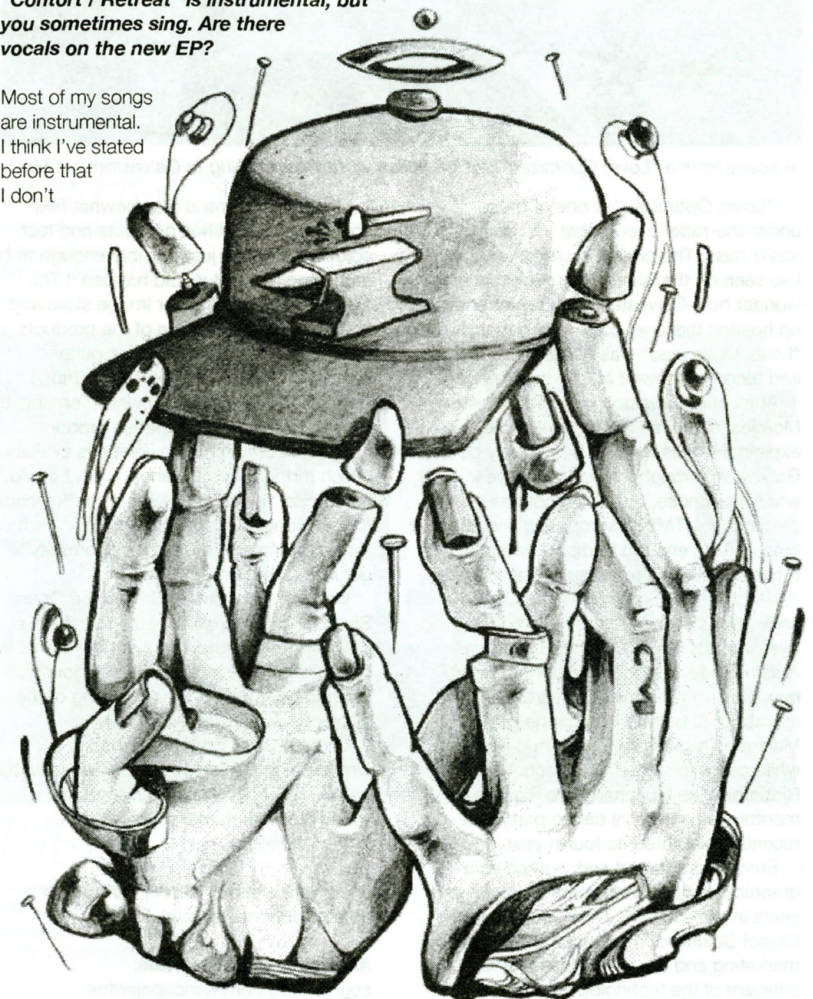
Most of my songs are instrumental. I think I've stated before that I don't

believe in putting vocals in for the sake of it. On occasions I do sing if I feel it's right but I like to make music that I feel speaks for itself.

Listen:
stevestrongmusic.bandcamp.com

Follow:
facebook.com/stevestronguk
Instagram: @steve_strong_music

Experience:
5/5 at Nu Gruves





A scene from a "Love, Optimized" design fiction workshop, coming to Galveston this May!

"Love, Optimized" is one of those under-the-radar events that you could easily miss. The project is unlike anything I've seen on the island. You might even wonder how Galveston Arts Center ended up hosting this one, considering that "Love, Optimized" was written up in *VICE* and recently showed at MIT in Cambridge.

Artist and Galveston resident Ernesto Morales joined me at The Proletariat to explain. He tells me that he will only be in Galveston through the rest of the year while his fiancée, Sandi, completes her program at UTMB. It's not a big window of time, but it's enough to discover that Ernesto has quite a few surprises in store.

After meeting Sandi and Ernesto at a show, I was surprised to find him DJing the release party for *BINDER* at Galveston Artist Residency. Under a light drizzle of rain, cumbia filled the courtyard. When I ask about it, he tells me that he goes by DJ Malagón and was half of DJ duo Pajaritos while going to school in Boston. With DJ Riobamba, he launched Pico Picante, a monthly transnational dance party that recently celebrated its fourth year.

Ernesto graduated and worked as a graphic designer, then spent a couple of years in Mexico City. There, he launched Object Solutions, a project that enlisted his marketing and design skills in playful criticism of the technology market.

Object Solutions is a somewhat fake company that pitches products and tech solutions that are just feasible enough to be real. Imagine what would happen if *The Onion* opened a Sharper Image store and you've got the idea. One of the products, a full-body moist towelette, was quite earnestly featured on *The Today Show*.

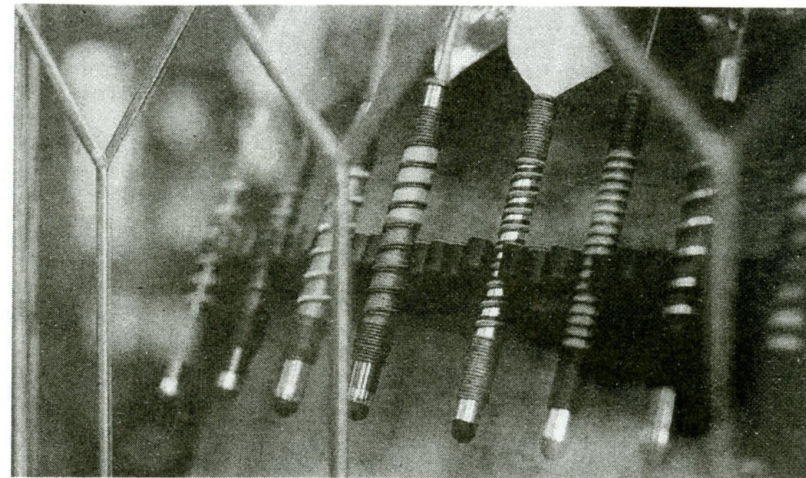
In Mexico City, Ernesto was even able to produce some of his fictitious products (yes, the roomy moist towelette is available) which further blurs the line. "Truth be told," he admits, "it's hard to hold onto the fiction for very long. I want people to be in on it with me." You will have the opportunity to get in on the game this month!

On May 13th, during GAC's free Open Studio night, you will be able to submit a problem for Ernesto to solve. The theme is, of course, love and romantic relationships. Ernesto will then do a live drawing of the "Object Solution" to the problem.

On May 28th, Ernesto is hosting a workshop at GAC. You will be paired with a partner to design relationship solutions within the dark humor of the Object Solutions world.

Read more about "Love, Optimized":
objectsolutions.net/love

Also, check out Pajaritos:
soundcloud.com/dancepajaritos



VISKER & SCRIVENERS

Handcrafted Quills, Books & Oddities

406 23rd Street

Thursday - Sunday 11am-4pm



THE PROLETARIAT

Gallery & Public House

2221 Market Street

Sunday - Thursday 4pm-12am

Friday - Saturday 4pm-2am



AT THE SHOW: PEELANDER Z

If you caught Peelander Z at Nu Gruves on April 30th, you know why it was a difficult show to review! Contributor Julian Jimenez confesses that he got caught up crowdsurfing, but he did report back with an in-person interview with Peelander Yellow, a.k.a. "The Mad Tiger."

So imagine this: take the outline of the Power Rangers, color in the spaces with the Japanese punk-rock aesthetic of The Pillows, sprinkle in some grade-school glitter, and maybe, just maybe, that squid-guitar hybrid that's limboing through the crowd will make a little more sense. Or are they bowling? Peelander Z is one of those special bands that celebrates its spectacle by making audience participation front and center of their sets, all driven by the kind of theatrics that feel right at home with the zany kind of Japanese pop culture that spawns those crazy game shows you see on YouTube.

I admit it, I'm biased. Peelander Z was one of the first shows I'd ever been to as a fledgling music junkie, and their show set a high standard for spectacle that would remain untopped for years until I started going to see bigger acts at festivals. But even then, their homebrewed papier-mâché outfits and DIY aesthetic taps into the kind of authentic charm that's sometimes lost with bigger acts.

I had a chance to sit down with some of the group when they swung by Galveston

this month to see what made them tick. Spearheading a Japanese invasion on the local music scene, Peelander Z's persona seemed to be such an integral part of their personalities that it is inseparable from their actual selves. Peelander Yellow (Kengo Hioki) graciously answered our questions, accompanied by fellow bandmates Peelander Green (Akihiko Naruse) and Purple (Akiteru Ito).

Julian: How did you meet?

Yellow: We are not human beings. We came from another planet. We do not have any bodies. We were lent bodies that belong to human beings. When we was born we made the band. We do not have individuals. We are together, always. We are Peelander Z. We come from the planet Peelander. "roars"

Tell me about Planet Peelander. What is it like?

It look like... Las Vegas. Everyone happy and everybody spend money! But they are

eating smile. They eat smile! They eat smile! So that's why I try to make you happy, make something comic, funny, and everyone tonight, you're gonna see, we're gonna make you happy and we're gonna get your smile. And then we're gonna collect smile everywhere in U.S. tour, and then we're gonna send it all our Peelander planet, and our people are going to eat. So our project is to get your smile. That is our project. That is PEELANDER Z! "roars" Smile everywhere in U.S. tour, and then we're gonna send it all our Peelander planet, and our people are going to eat. So our project is to get your smile. That is our project. That is PEELANDER Z! "roars"

Wow. Sending our smiles to another planet sounds difficult. How far away is planet Peelander?

We don't have distance. You know where is the Peelander planet? If you are looking for, never you can find. If you feel, you can find. Maybe tonight, you're gonna find it, inside your brain... Tomorrow, you're gonna find inside dog... So it's kind of... don't think too much. If you feel, you can find Peelander planet. "laughs"

What motivates the band?

Tacos. Yeah. That's why we go out. We have a taco song, we respect tacos. Always we eat smile, but we found tacos around here. So we were surprised! Wow, tacos are good! And so we started eating tacos and sushi. Taco stands in each city are our motivation.

Can you tell me more about the band? What happened with the other guys? I know you had other colors, right?

You cannot see them? Pink is here. "points at space between Peelander Green and Purple" Rainbow is here. "points at empty chair" Peelander Gold, Blonde, they're all here. All together! Always together! They somewhere, but they are always here.

You know though, well, everybody came from different place. I met [Peelander

Green] in Tokyo and [Peelander Purple] in New York. We are based in New York, we tour together here.

Your shows have been the most fun of any of the shows I've been to because of the interaction with the audience.

Because we are not a band. We are preschool party. So I'm going to be your teacher, you're gonna be my student. And don't worry about your mother because your mother is not here. Dancing and singing, smiling, and crazy face and screaming, nobody bother you! We gonna make party for you!

So what's up with the squid guitar mascot?

Oh! Lead Aka-Ika? Sometime he come. He very goofy boy. He swimming in the timeline... fifth dimension, sixth dimension, twelfth dimension, hundredth dimension... I don't know where. Sometime he come on stage. He our friend.

Is he also from Planet Peelander?

Maybe. People doesn't know about him...

What is it like being in Peelander Z? Each show seems so exhausting and to tour independently seems tough. I imagine it's hectic.

Don't think about us because we are not human being. We never drive car. We gonna fly like UFO. Two minutes every state, every city. Two minutes we're gonna go there!

I researched a little about you guys on the internet and...

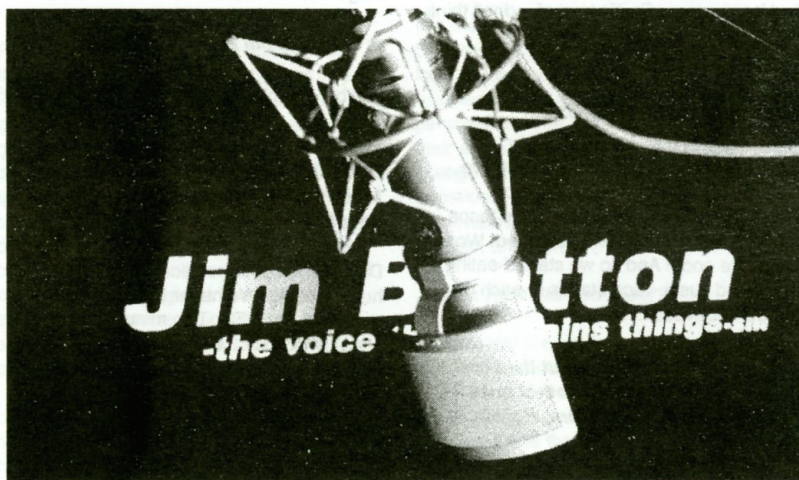
Can you believe internet? Can you believe internet!? All fake. All fake. Name Peelander Z on Wikipedia? All fake. Believe only eyes. You're gonna see our show. Your eyes. Watch yourself. Tell everyone. Don't believe Wikipedia. All fake. But come to see and dance with us, smile with us. That is more important.



AFFAIRE D'ART

Fine Art Gallery
2227 Post Office Street,
Thursday - Monday 12pm - 6pm

Affaire D'Art Gifts & Gallery
2317 Strand
Thursday - Monday 11am - 7pm



JIM BRATTON

-the voice that explains things-
Galveston-based voiceover professional
jimbratton@jimbratton.com
jimbratton.com



GALVESTON'S OWN FARMERS MARKET

Sunday Market
2508 Post Office Street
June - September 9am-12pm
October - May 9am-1pm

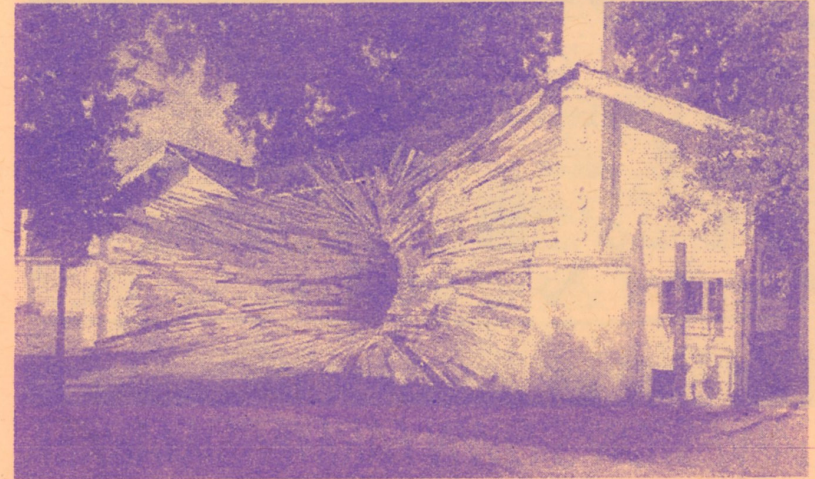
Thursday Market
2222 28th Street Market
McGuire Dent Rec Center
3pm-7pm



3RD COAST KOMBUCHA

Full-bodied, Local, Organic & Live
AVAILABLE AT:
Galveston's Own Farmers Market
The Proletariat
Oasis Juice Bar

LOCAL CALENDAR



Dan Havel and Dean Ruck, the creative team behind Houston's *Inversion House*, will be speaking at GAC this month.

Conversations @ the Center: Havel Ruck Projects

The creators of Houston's *Inversion House* are giving a free presentation downstairs in the main gallery.

Wednesday, May 4th

Galveston Arts Center
6:30pm / free

Dem & Robert Kuhn

Daytime Cinco de Mayo celebration with local reggae & roots. It'll be fiya... fyah... something like that.

Thursday, May 5th

Float Patio & Pool Bar
9am - 1pm / \$7

Steve Strong w/ Hakeem & Vox Vocjs

Featured UK-based musician Steve Strong is a one man arsenal of beats, tapped guitar and lush, textural melodies. Read our interview!

Thursday, May 5th

Nu Gruves
9pm / \$7

The Art of Tea with Mari Omori

Artist-led tour, authentic of the gallery followed by a Japanese tea ceremony & art-making using teabags.

Saturday, May 7th

Galveston Arts Center
1:30 - 3pm / \$5

NIHIL w/ GWO & Harvey

Nihil is a fast, hard, and heavy two-piece outfit from Boston ready to break down the barrier between metal and hardcore. Local openers!!

Tuesday, May 10th

Nu Gruves
9pm

Open Studio / Love, Optimized Opening Night

Galveston Art Center opens its studio space to your art project! Also, the opening night for "Love, Optimized." Read our article for details!

Friday, May 13th

Galveston Arts Center
5:30 - 7:30p / free or donation

The Iceman Special w/ Souffiya & Zach Edwards

BYOB crawfish boil w/ dirty funk headliner from New Orleans. Live music outside w/ DJ sets by Knubbz, Rillo and Hunter Romero inside.

Friday, May 13th

Kona House of Culture
6pm / \$10
\$10 for 3 lbs of crawfish / BYOB

After the Storm

Houston Grand Opera presents a chamber opera set during Ike & the 1900 storm. The creators interviewed Galveston residents!

Sunday, May 15th

The Grand 1984 Opera House
7pm / \$15-30

Design Fiction Workshop: Love, Optimized

Pair with a collaborator to design humorous tech solutions to romantic challenges.

Thursday, May 28th

Galveston Arts Center
2 - 5pm / \$15 / drinks & snacks