

BEST OF THE WEST

////// **BEYOND THE WEST** // openings / exhibits / events / auctions



MASSACHUSETTS

Summer Shows

ORLEANS • Recent paintings by several artists are on display this month at Tree's Place Gallery. The month kicks off with a group show titled *Observations in Nature: A Classical Approach to Landscape Painting*, which is on display August 2-7 and features works by Jacob Collins, Donald Demers, Joseph McGurl, Nicholas Hiltner, and William R. Davis. A solo show for Elaine Coffee is held August 9-14. The show spotlights some of her recent paintings depicting ordinary people in everyday settings, which she calls "contemporary genre painting." "I like capturing the gestures and the body language that visually reveal a person's state of mind," says Coffee. A two-person show for Robert Vickrey and Michael Whelan takes place August 16-21 and another two-person show spotlighting coastal scenes by Joseph Paquet and still-life paintings by Robert Douglas Hunter takes place August 23-28. For more information: 508.255.1330 or www.treesplace.com.

▲ **RED ROOM AT THE LOUVRE BY ELAINE COFFEE**

MASSACHUSETTS

Reality Check

SPRINGFIELD • The International Guild of Realism explores the state of realism painting around the world in the traveling exhibition *The New Reality: The Frontier of Realism in the 21st Century*. The exhibition compares the work of contemporary artists to their historical predecessors and features 65 paintings by artists from the United States, Canada, Russia, France, Norway, and Finland. Artists in the exhibition include Camille Engel, Karl Jóhann Jónsson, Jane Jones, and Scott Royston. Each of the 56 artists involved in the exhibition chose one historical painting to compare to their own current work. *The New Reality* is on display at the Míchele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts until November 16. The exhibition travels around the country through 2010, stopping in Louisiana, Texas, and Iowa. For more information: 800.625.7738 or www.springfieldmuseums.org.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Beyond Tradition

Garcia takes pottery in new directions

WASHINGTON • The National Museum of Women in the Arts presents an exhibition of Tammy Garcia's works in pottery, opening August 22. Garcia is best known for infusing her works with modern designs and carvings. "There is a certain thrill to creating art that is indefinable and pushes the boundaries of traditional pottery," says Garcia. *Beyond Tradition* spotlights some of her signature pots; they feature etchings of Pueblo motifs such as ancient geometric patterns and Corn Dancers, as well as non-traditional images such as mermaids and opera singers. "Over the past decade, Garcia has revolutionized traditional Pueblo pottery and folded it into mainstream contemporary art. Her intricate design work and experimental shapes have driven the art of pottery into the 21st century and set her apart from her contemporaries," says Susan Fisher Sterling, director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. *Beyond Tradition* remains on view through February 3, 2009. For more information: 202.783.5000 or www.nmwa.org.



► **OLIVIA BY TAMMY GARCIA FROM THE COLLECTION OF ALAN J. KAZAN**