



ARTS

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 The main article header features a dark background with a hummingbird in flight on the left and a stylized, layered American flag on the right.

VISUAL ARTS 4 DAYS AGO

Craighead Green Gallery unfolds yet another three-artist show

Michael Granberry, Dallas Morning News

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As we know by now, the Dallas Design District is undergoing tremendous change. And much of that change involves art. Multiple galleries have moved from the heart of the district, from Dragon Street in particular, to points farther north.

They include Cris Worley Fine Arts and Holly Johnson Gallery, which moved to Levee Street, closer to the Trinity River. Monitor Street is nearby, and these days, it's home to the Liliana Bloch Gallery, The Public Trust and Galleri Urbane.

But one of the enduring mainstays on Dragon Street in the Design District is Craighead Green Gallery, whose owners purchased the property years ago after moving from Uptown, where rents became astronomically high. By moving to the Design District, 1011 Dragon St. in particular, Craighead Green grew from its 1,800 square feet in Uptown to more than 6,000 square feet.

It routinely stages three-artist exhibitions featuring some of the state's best artists.



Carlos Ramirez: In My Garden, At the Edge of the Pool, Ink and Acrylic on Canvas, 48 x 48 x 2 Craighead Green Gallery

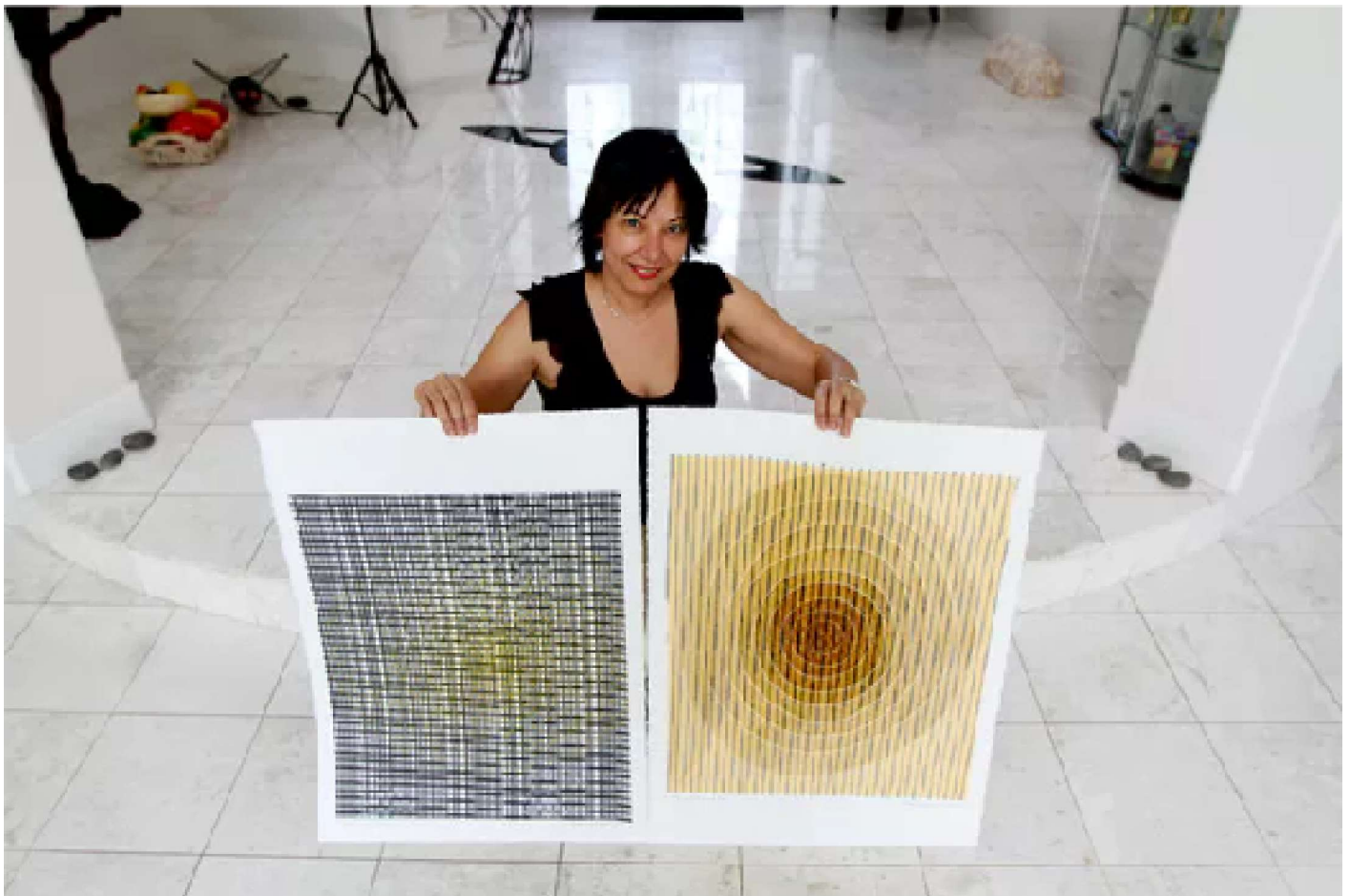
Its new exhibition, which opens with a reception Saturday night from 5 to 8, showcases Daniel Angeles, Carlos Ramirez and Orna Feinstein. It continues through May 6.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Feinstein back in 2010, when she told me about her art undergoing a major change in 1997. And to quote a country song, you can blame it on Texas.

Born in Jerusalem, Feinstein longed to be an artist from age 16. Not even a yen for biology and chemistry or a stint in the Israeli army from 1972 to 1974, which coincided with the Yom Kippur War, could kill her passion for art.

In 1984, Feinstein and her budding family moved to Houston, where her art has continued to evolve in ways both subtle and dramatic. Obsessed with printmaking, she had followed for years a style devoted almost entirely to realism.

Thirteen years after arriving in flat, humid Houston, surrounded by pine trees and a landscape sublimely different from her native Israel, she came to embrace the totally abstract.



Artist Orna Feinstein, at her home in Bellaire, works with an etching press to create multidimensional commissions in her studio a mile from home. (Andy Jacobsohn/The Dallas Morning News)

"I got bored with making art about which I already knew the end result, even before I started," she said.



"In the way that I was doing art before, there was no discovery, no mystery, no nothing. I knew ahead of time how it was all going to look. I discovered that I like to work spontaneously, intuitively ... and make discoveries as I go."

The result is printmaking that combines three-dimensional elements and feeds her soul as much as it underscores her rich talent as an artist.

"In every piece you see, there was nothing preconceived, premeditated, preplanned. It all evolves as I work, and in the end, it all comes down to the same theme."

That would be the tree trunk, a symbol that harks back to Feinstein's childhood passion for science and nature and a fascination for her father's talents as a silversmith. "The image of the tree trunk is endlessly fascinating to me," she says, "because it represents my own desire for balance."



Orna Feinstein: *Grids, Layers and Lines, Seeds and Seductions* Install, Monoprints on Panels, 8 x 8 x 2 each Craighead Green Gallery

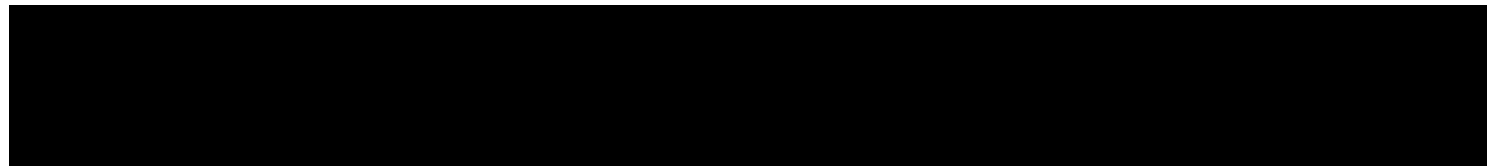
Cut open a tree trunk and "horizontally, it has rings that are orderly and geometric. But cut it vertically, and you get flowing lines that are much more organic. So you have organic and geometric elements in the same object."

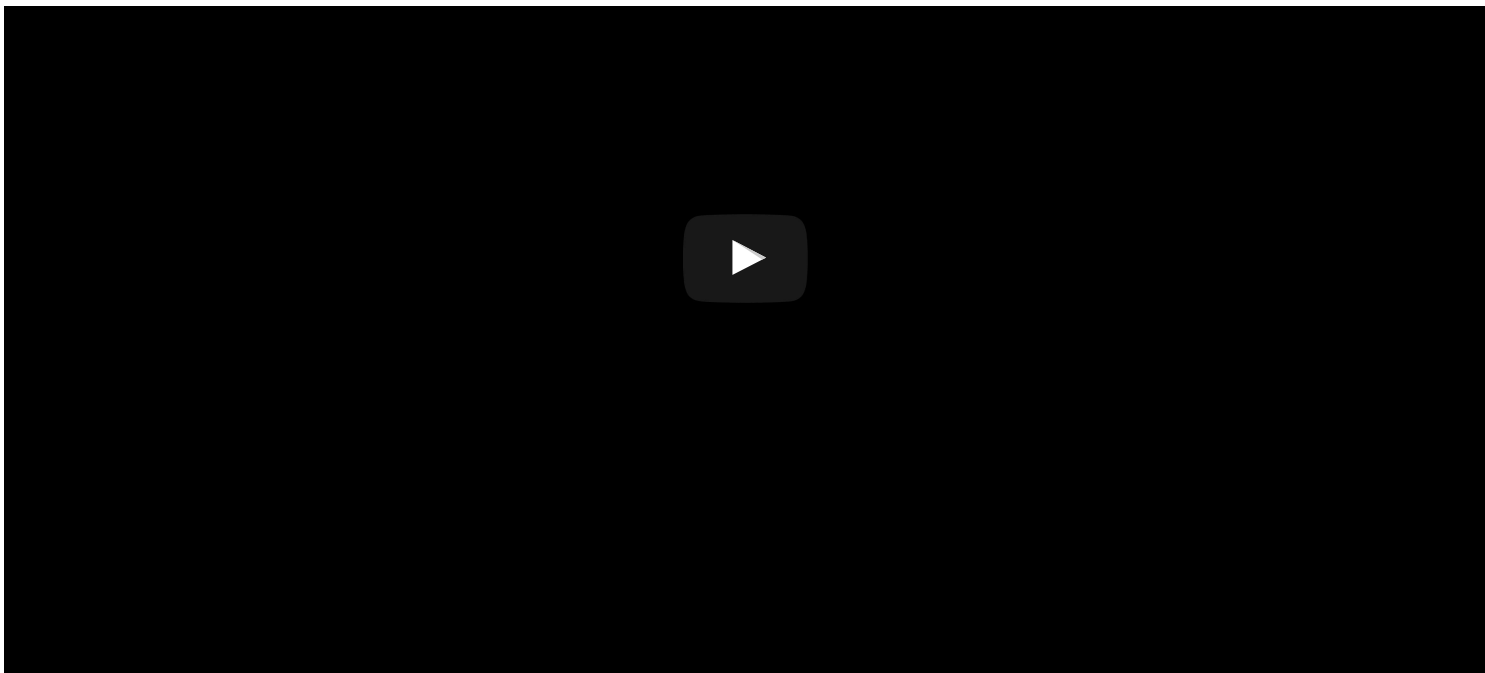
Feinstein traces it directly to her own unusual history, to her yin-yang longings of science vs. art, "to thinking and feeling and the balance that comes from two sources."

For her, "there is nothing I don't like about art. I love making art, looking at art, buying art, reading about art ... I'm totally ecstatic about it. Some nights I can't sleep because I have so much excitement over ideas of what I want to make and do."

Twitter: @mgranberry

Here is a YouTube video featuring artist Orna Feinstein:





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