

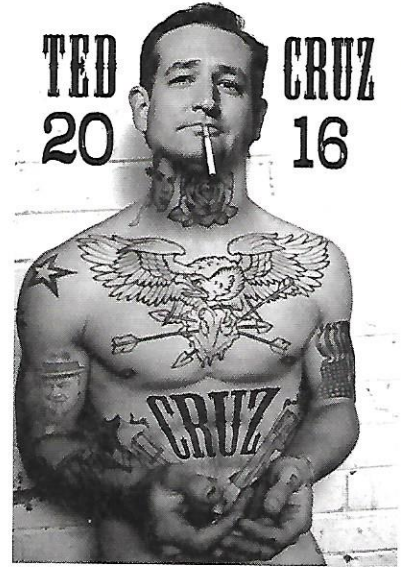
# Art Notes

**Political Takeover:** This column is typically peppered with topics and a mad dash of sentences traversing exhibitions and news ranging from lofty and/or historic to underground and off the beaten path. After meeting with **Apama Mackey** a few weeks ago, however, the idea was hatched to make a single show the subject of this month's column — specifically, her eponymous gallery's politically tinged summertime standout, a topical exhibition that spills

throughout the Heights shipping-container space and its annex, the **Museum of Drawing**. The subject is perfect fodder for artists: the 2016 American presidential race, perhaps the strangest election cycle ever in the annals of our country. There's an edge to "Poll(Itics) 2016: The Documentary," with

an uncertain outcome in the balance and the fate of our electorate and global ramifications at stake. National and Texas talents blend wit, satire and activism to consider the qualifications of the candidates, from the deflated campaign of Ted Cruz to the rise of Trumpism, the socialist populism of Bernie Sanders and the powerful brand of Hillary Clinton, both beloved and feared. Watch for objects, propaganda, collectible stickers, graphic design, photography and video that skewer and question the candidates. Among the catalytic participants: **Phillip Kremer** (once banned from Instagram for his deranged images of celebs and

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Sabo's Ted Cruz, 2015, at Apama Mackey Gallery

politicians); installationist **David Krueger**, whose work always has a dark side; the Internet talent who goes by one name, **Sabo**, and proclaims himself the only Republican street artist; minimal pop animator **Armita Pebdani**; and, in the museum itself, **Matt Kennedy**, director of L.A.'s **La Luz de Jesus Gallery**, who has been tapped to guest-curate **The Panik Collective**, a loose group of image-makers, musicians and scientists from the West



William Cannings' XX, 2016, at Anya Tish Gallery

Coast whose practice focuses on public actions. Both exhibitions run through July 31, perfectly timed to coincide with the party conventions (GOP in Cleveland, July 18 – 21, Democrats in Philadelphia, July 25 – 28, with watch parties at the gallery for each). Nice little multiples will be for sale, too, harvested from online sources, and even a chance for a photo op with Presidential Barbie ... For something more civilized, storied photo studio **Gittings** presents timeless portraits of **Children's Museum Houston** board honchos in the windows of **Neiman Marcus** (June 16 – 22) ... Read our arts blog for a look back at some of the top shows from **Anya Tish Gallery's** first 20 years, concurrent with the gallery's anniversary exhibition "XX," second installment (June 3 – July 9). *Catherine D. Ansporn*

**A** **Café Annie Reboot:** To celebrate chef **Robert Del Grande's** 35-year milestone cooking in Houston, he and the powers at his namesake RDG restaurant are feeling a bit nostalgic. Del Grande, his wife **Mimi**, and sister, and brother in law **Condoso** and **Lennie**

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND APAMA MACKEY GALLERY

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