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Celebrating 35 Years 1976 - 2011

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Pretense
by Artist Trudy Askew at Archway Gallery

Exhibition May 5 - May 31, 2012

Opening Reception

DATE: Saturday, May 5, 2012
TIME: 5 – 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy, Houston, TX 77006
Light refreshments will be served

Houston, Texas (January 24, 2012) – Archway Gallery presents *Pretense*, featuring artist [Trudy Askew](#). The exhibition will be on view May 5 – 31, 2012.



***Big Show* by Trudy Askew**

The artist will be on hand to visit with guests during the exhibition opening reception on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 5 – 8 pm at the gallery.

The paintings featured in *Pretense* portray the surreal human circus. The actors Askew creates identify themselves one mask at a time, by concealing their identities and by establishing new ones. These performers invite the audience into the big top with them, barely pulling back the curtain to reveal the artifice behind the show. As observers, our response is bittersweet. The play casts the “brave face” we wear in public under a new spotlight, revealing the fragility of this mask that conceals and protects our true personae.

“We all populate this vast theater, this house of mirrors, where things are not always as they seem,” explains Askew.

These narratives are revealed through a blend of portraiture and contemporary realism. Depicting scenes between the obvious and the hidden, Askew places her subjects at a temporal distance. Just as foreign travel heightens the way we perceive our familiar environs, vintage images sharpen the viewer’s perception and receptivity to meaning. Askew employs a color palette reminiscent of Renaissance paintings to further imply this backward glance in time.

Among her favorite subjects, children and animals are the stars in “Pretense.” They wear their costumes with innocence and blind trust, made all the more poignant by the masks and roles we assume as adults.



***The Changing Room* by Trudy Askew**

Born and raised in San Diego, CA, Askew states that she has always been an artist and as such pursued an extensive education in fine arts. She attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, but left because of the distraction of student riots over the Vietnam War. She received her B.F.A. from the University of Texas, and fell in love with the state, particularly Austin. Other stops along the way include magical summers spent in Guadalajara, Mexico at the Universidad de Artes Plasticas; adventures in Valencia, Spain at the Universidad de Valencia and The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, Maine. She received her M.F.A. from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

Askew moved to Houston in 1975 and found an open and welcoming atmosphere for her work. Her art received recognition: she won competitions; received positive media coverage and became an active member of the Houston art community. She fell in love, married and raised a family. Over the course of her career, she has been a teacher and educator for more than 25 years and describes her classrooms as exciting, crazy and experimental. Her students were passionate about art and she learned as much as they did.

Living in Sugar Land, Askew paints full time and is still in love with Texas.

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES, PLEASE CONTACT MONICA RHODES, monica@monicarhodes.com or 979.285.8512.

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ABOUT ARCHWAY GALLERY – Over 35 years as an artists owned gallery

Archway Gallery, one of Houston's and the nation's oldest artist owned and operated galleries, is located at 2305 Dunlavy and is open Monday – Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm and Sunday from 1 – 5 pm. Since 1976, Archway Gallery has been exhibiting the work of the area's finest artists, providing a great selection of affordable, high quality art including sculpture, pottery and painting in a variety of media and styles. Artists are always on site, offering visitors a unique experience to meet the artist who created the work, offering a personal insight about the process behind their creativity. The gallery offers a "Tea and Tour" program, providing visitors with a free artist-led tour of the current exhibition, followed by tea and refreshments. In addition to monthly exhibitions, Archway also hosts a variety of demonstrations and monthly readings for local writers and authors. With 30 artist-members, Archway Gallery is THE destination in the Houston area for art. For more information, visit ArchwayGallery.com or call 713.522.2409. Become a fan on [Facebook](#).