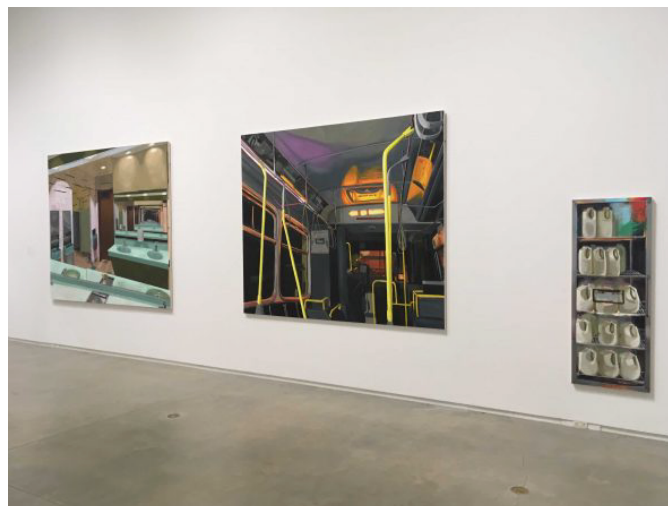


Highlights from UH's 40th Annual Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition

Brandon Zech, April 14, 2018



Every year, the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston hosts the school's exhibition of graduating MFA candidates. On view for only a couple weeks, the show is a culmination of what the program's students have learned and produced during their three-year stint. While this year's exhibition felt less cramped (it featured 11 graduating students as opposed to last year's class of 15), I was quite impressed by the quality of the artists' works. Here's some of the things I liked.



I've liked Charis Ammon's paintings for a while. Along with some other UH MFA grads, her goopy, pleasing realistic paintings of sink drains and light switches were in *Homelife*, a 2016 exhibition at Inman Gallery. Since then, Ammon has returned to a more traditional painting style. Her two large-scale works of interiors and the faux fridge door, pictured above, have nice discoverable moments that remind me of how I feel when I see an exceptional Wayne Thiebaud.



Ammon had other, smaller works upstairs that filled a narrow walkway connecting two galleries. While her larger pieces have come a long way, I still feel she works best on a more intimate scale. Painted with a combination of oil and encaustic, the works capture snapshots of a city — scenes that are familiar but not specific to a time or place.

Excerpt from larger article