

Plenty of variety distinguished the San Antonio art scene at the turn of the millennium. And for once, there were easily another 10 exhibits that could have made the Top 10 list. San Antonio artists, refusing to be contained within a single school, have made diversity the city's strength, as they demonstrated in several of the shows below:

"Spirit Country: Contemporary Australian Art from the Gantner Myer Collection": Destined to become part of the permanent collection at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, this was probably the most comprehensive exhibit of its kind to tour the United States, making a much-appreciated stop at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Leonardo Drew: The New York artist found a temporary home in San Antonio — he spent a year making the found-object pieces that were included in his show at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, which he previewed at the Finesilver Gallery.

Dario Robleto: The hottest artist in San Antonio, Robleto has turned his dreams of becoming a pop-music star into a burgeoning visual art career. Mixing music and mineralogy, he imagined what it would be like to extract the soul from a Supremes record in his installation at ArtPace.



Susan Davidoff's drawings were part of a show sponsored by Carrington Gallery. This is 'Canyon Walk, Grasses, Canna.'

Fotoseptiembre 2000: The photography festival came into its own this year, showcasing more than 180 photographers in nearly 50 exhibits spread out over the city. Highlights included "Foto-escultu-

ras" at the Southwest School of Art & Craft, "Personal Permanent Records" at the Blue Star Art Space and "Composure" at Art Inc.

"Taos Artists and Their Patrons: 1898-

1950": The best historical show of the year traced the importance of the little-examined role of patrons on the New Mexico art colony. They included Marion Koogler McNay, who founded the McNay Art Museum.

"Earth & Fire: Ceramic Sculpture": Director George Neubert put together a contemporary-art show that finally combined the best local artists with outstanding national artists in this exhibit at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

"San Antonio Profile": Blue Star Art Space Director Carla Stellweg took a look at young, emerging San Antonio artists in this exhibit.

"San Antonio Spring Show: A Flower Invitational": Finesilver Gallery Director Gabriela Trench invited local artists to do something different with the traditional floral still life, resulting in one of the most delightful (though short-lived) shows of the year.

Susan Davidoff and Rachelle Thiewes: The El Paso artists collaborated on an exhibit inspired by the Chihuahuan Desert, including Thiewes' thorny jewelry designs and Davidoff's mystic drawings, in this show sponsored by the Carrington Gallery.

George Cisneros' "Maximum Silence": Keys, bamboo, baskets, seeds and little electric motors transported viewers to the rain forest in this soothing exhibit at the Center for Spirituality and the Arts.