



While Psychedelic Robot is still under construction, its grand opening on Sept. 20 will be a sight to behold.

Nicholas Bostick

The Bivins Gallery's Psychedelic Robot is Bringing Highbrow Art to the Masses

NICHOLAS BOSTICK | AUGUST 31, 2018 | 4:00AM

Michael and Karen Bivins discovered an entirely new Dallas when they moved back to town five years ago. After spending much of the previous three decades buying, selling and curating art across the globe, the couple saw a thriving art scene that's ready to compete with the world.

“When we came back and saw what was going on, you know we visited a few times, but when we saw what was happening in Dallas, we said, ‘Whoa. It’s extraordinary,’” Michael says. “We actually think it’s one of the best places in the country to be doing what we’re doing.”

They wasted no time getting back to it, opening the Bivins Gallery last February as the staging ground for their mission to democratize art in Dallas. And on Sept. 20, they’ll take their next step. Psychedelic Robot is a 10-day pop-up immersive art show at Crescent Court, offering internationally acclaimed artists and a low barrier of entry.

“There’s no pretentious B.S. here, either. This is what we feel the art world is all about,” Michael says. “Look, there’s art for people who have a lot of money and we supply that too. But we want to grow people; we want to grow collectors and their market. That’s kind of what Psychedelic Robot is all about.”

“It all comes down to just being in the moment and having fun. And if you’re comfortable and you have the supplies, you’re able to just react.” - Travis McCann

Each of the artists involved has been given a portion of the 12,000-square-foot space to completely transform. Each vignette flows into the next, with most having a heavy emphasis on creating Instagram-able tableaux for guests to pose and interact with. Local artist Travis McCann, aka not.travis, will recreate his Dragon Street studio space as a way of allowing people to peek behind the curtain – showing his process as he creates original works in real time.

“You’ll be able to piece together the process,” McCann says. “It all comes down to just being in the moment and having fun. And if you’re comfortable, and you have the supplies, you’re able to just react.”

At the end of the event, the piece he creates will be raffled off to the guest who takes the best Instagram shot of the work in progress.

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