

D Life & Arts

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An Austin brand for the T-shirt and jeans girl, Style Matters, D3.

Action-packed 'Pacific Rim' takes over theaters, Friday in Austin360.



Michael Barnes
Out & About

Jewish wedding planner teaches

Michele Schwartz now helps others plan Jewish life-cycle ceremonies and parties.

By Michael Barnes
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Resemblance to a "Love Boat" character foretold Michele Schwartz's career pretty closely.

"My nickname in high school was: Julie McCoy, cruise director," the Jewish wedding expert recalls. "I was very social. But I always had to be in charge."

Her hyper-sociality did not abate. Now the San Antonio-born Schwartz, 44, is married. And rather than plan weddings as she once did, she coaches others to do so.

Schwartz, whose features would look right on the lead comic in a 1950s sitcom or variety show, advises mostly through her blog, "The Modern Jewish Wedding." She also consults directly with still-active wedding planners.

"I fell into event planning," she says. "But trained for it my whole life. Judaism, I was born into."

It's easy to see how Schwartz undercuts the stress of event management with snappy wit.

An only child — "that was part of the pressure to get married" — Schwartz grew up mostly in Austin and excelled at Anderson High School. Her early social composure might be related to the way her parents raised Schwartz.

"My parents treated me very much as an adult," she says. "We traveled a lot. They took me on vacations. I was around adult social interactions. I was perhaps a little outspoken. Them, too. I'm a lot like my mom."

Not everything went her way. At the University of Texas, the Jewish Community Center-level swimmer served as manager for the UT wom-

VISUAL ART

YLA show goes 'out of bounds'



Curator Michael Anthony Garcia at the exhibition "Young Latino Artists 18: Con/Juntos" at the Mexic-Arte Museum. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LANDES

Latino art curator casts a wide net for new exhibition

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin
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Titling the exhibition he curated at Mexic-Arte Museum proved easy for Michael Anthony Garcia.

In ways both direct and indirect, "Con/Juntos" — "With/Together" — considers notions of community.

The museum's 18th annual "Young Latino Artists 18" exhibition, "Con/Juntos" is literally a little farther out of bounds than previous iterations of the show, which is designed to spotlight Latino artists under the age of 35.

For Garcia, community is an ever-shifting and evolving thing. And so he cast his curatorial net wide, looking beyond Texas and the United States to include artists from Mexico, Argentina and Colombia.

In all, Garcia selected nine artists — Raul Gonzalez, Daniel Adame, Sergio Garcia, Ricardo Paniagua, Robert Jackson Harrington, Isabella Bur, April Garcia, Nelda Ramos and Javier Vanegas — and two artist collectives, Colectivo Sector Reforma and Tejidos Urbanosa.

And then Garcia asked some of the individual artists to do something they hadn't done before: collaborate with an artist they had never met.

Con/Juntos continued on D10

"YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS 18: CON/JUNTOS"

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Exhibit continues through Sept. 8.

Where: Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress Ave.

Tickets: \$1-\$5. Free on Sundays.

Information: 512-480-9373, www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

Curator's talk: 2 p.m. Saturday. Free.



ABOVE: "Unknown Sources" by Ricardo Paniagua of Dallas
LEFT: "It's Like a Sculpture, but with More Breakdancing" by Sergio Garcia of Dallas.