The Eyes Have It / James Surls, 2010
Surls, an East Texan, taught art for years at S.M.U. before founding the Lawndale Alternative Space in Houston. Though he and his wife have lived in Carbondale Co. for some time, we still consider him to be Texas’ premier sculptor and all around realist. His works can be seen in major museums around the country including the Dallas Museum of Art, The Meadows Museum at S.M.U., and the Whitney Museum in New York, not to mention many corporate and private collections around the world.

The Trinity / by a host of then Dallas talent, 1988
The stained glass window designs were a collaborative effort between Jeff Smith, Ben James, Issac Tigrett, Frank X. Tolbert 2, and Ellen Soderquist. Great care was taken by these artists to capture the overall essence of each subject, injecting scads of minutiae relevant to each musician into the designs. They were constructed by the Kebrle Stained Glass Studio using mouth-blown German glass, incorporating hand painted and fired detailing. John Kebrle emigrated to the U.S. in 1913 from a family of Czech artists and established the studio in 1920. John, Jr. and his family still operate the business and have designed hundreds of windows for churches around the world, including St. Michael and All Angels here in Dallas. After a rough removal from their former home, these windows have been carefully restored by Kittrell/Riffkind Art Glass in Addison. Their immense size required these behemoth works to be flown from the ceiling, and we very much appreciate your not reaching up to see if they are real. They are.

Willard Watson / John Katz
Willard first came to prominence in 1976 when his artistic talents were discovered by Bob “Daddy-O” Wade and Clair Frost as he assisted them building Daddy-O’s “Bicentennial Map Project and Texas Mobile Home Museum”. Known by his close friends as simply “Kid”, Willard quickly established himself as one of the early godfathers of Texas outsider art, taking inspiration from nature while fashioning found objects into high-dollar masterpieces. Willard said he could see spirits and claimed to have even played dice with them. His work can be seen at the African American Museum at Fair Park, and in important art collections throughout the country. We are attempting to find John Katz to blow a breeze toward him too.

Jayne Mansfield & Sophia Loren / by Joe Shere
Mansfield attended Highland Park schools in Dallas, took acting classes at the University of Dallas and SMU, later becoming a student of actor Baruch Lumet, father of director Sidney Lumet and founder of the Dallas Institute of the Performing Arts. The photo shows Loren raising an eyebrow at the American actress who had leaned over the table, allowing her breasts to spill over her low neckline, exposing one nipple and diverting attention from the Italian actress, for whom the party was thrown.

Johnny Green and The Green Men / Dmitri Vail 1965
Dmitri Vail (ne Robert David Vail) moved to Dallas in 1942 and later worked with the Fair Park Music Hall in Dallas to paint portraits of celebrities who performed there. The Music Hall displayed the portraits until 1971, when the building was remodeled. Vail also painted portraits of Presidents John F. Kennedy and then Lyndon Johnson, which is displayed at the presidential library in Austin. In Episode # 104 of the T.V. Batman – “Surfs Up Jokers Under”, Johnny Green and his Green Men played on the beach as Batman and The Joker played dueling surfboards. Johnny Green and the Green Men have performed for the President of the United States and toured with both the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Johnny Green still has green hair.

Ghosts of Old Red / Perry Brooks Nichols
Grandson of Perry Nichols, member of the original “Dallas Nine” regionalist art movement.

This Building / Built a long time ago
You are now sitting in the true Trinity River bottom. If this were 1925, you’d be under water or up to your ass in mud, depending on the season. When John and Storey Stemmons inherited their father’s land in the Trinity River levee district in 1939, few would have predicted that this mosquito-infested swamp would be developed into a highly profitable industrial district over the next three decades. This building was a Trammel Crow warehouse, most recently housing the Ann Sacks Tile, now located across the street. Most of our floor is part of their original palette of tiles. Ironically, we are also located in a “dry area” of Dallas whose boundary is still defined by the old Trinity River bottom route. This “dryness” is a holdover from Prohibition days (1920-1933), which begs the question, “How progressive is Big D?” Hopefully, this November, its citizens will vote to eliminate all dry areas in the city, and along with it, any need to join a private club to enjoy a cocktail.

Thank you for finding us and we hope you enjoyed yourself. If you want to submit feedback, grab a coaster. Our link is on it and we really do want to hear from you, and appreciate your business.