

## Highlights of the Inaugural W.A.D. Walk

The newly formed **Westside Arts District** will hold their monthly art walk every third Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. This past Saturday some compatriots and I took said stroll to sample WAD'S fare. WAD is composed of the **Contemporary Art Center**, a contingent of urban frontier galleries, a recently relocated **Saltworks**, and **Get This! gallery**, formerly of Castleberry Hill. A myriad of boutiques and a handful of lesser-reputed galleries also populate the burgeoning scene. Visitors to the area can also enjoy some of the city's most exciting hospitality spots with Bacchanalia, Quinones, Six Feet Under, and Octane Coffee a stone's throw from one another. Highlights of the Walk include Greely Myatt and Pat Courtney's exhibitions at **Sandler Hudson** and Drew Conrad's exhibition at Get This! Gallery.



Drew Conrad's "Cowboys, Lovers, Losers, & Nobodies" is an installational mix of sculptural vignettes and wall pieces that make a purported stab at characterizing America as a place of "heroes, icons,

death, obscurities, anxieties, achievements, trophies, bravado, machismo, cowboys, lovers"... etc. Á la Jason Rhoades, Conrad converts the negative white space of the gallery using small beseeching neon signs, appropriated glossies of male idols, hustler magazines, cheaply ebonized tchotchkes, and strategically placed personal items into a charged psychological proxy, both lauding and censoring itself in the same gesture. The sculptures reflect very explicitly the working of the masculine id and ego that is both juvenile and unabashedly alpha. "Lady Killer" hammers home Conrad's fractured libidinal world by offering the anachronistically climactic and strangely redoubled self referential observation, "Ladies, It's a lonely world".