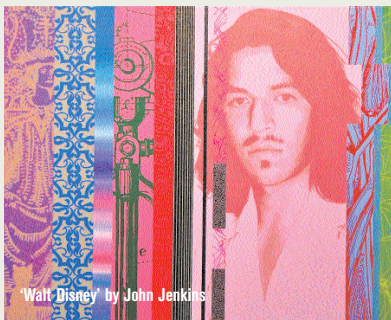


## DEAR JOHN

Houstonian artist John Jenkins is quickly gaining notoriety and proving that art is never simple. When asked to participate in the Bering & James Gallery's group *Landscape* exhibition, some might respond with pastoral scenes. Instead, Jenkins made pieces depicting the attacks of the World Trade Center and Pearl Harbor. "I know people want to look at the beaches of Hawaii," he says. "But then again, they don't just turn away when they see an image of the atomic bomb. It has to do with the duality of human nature." His other recent work combines vibrant colors, patterns and portraits. Check out *Landscape* through mid-month at the Bering & James Gallery (805 Rhode Place, No. 500, 713.524.0101) or his work online at [www.john-jenkins.net](http://www.john-jenkins.net).



Elizabeth Bunch and Chris Hutchison

R-E-S-P-E-C-T! THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY WENT WAY HIP LAST YEAR, BRINGING IN POP FAVES LIKE BEN FOLDS. THIS YEAR THEY GET SOUL—QUEEN OF SOUL, THAT IS. ON APRIL 26, ARETHA FRANKLIN, WILL PERFORM WITH THE ORCHESTRA. THE SINGER'S LAST TOUR WAS IN 2003, AND THERE ARE NO UPCOMING TOURS SCHEDULED. SO THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO CATCH SOME OF HER RE-INTERPRETED CLASSICS LIKE '(YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE) A NATURAL WOMAN'!

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alley Theatre company members and husband-and-wife team Chris Hutchison and Elizabeth Bunch play opposite each other on stage and off. "Although I never imagined being involved with someone I work with, it's been so easy for us," says Hutchison. "That proves it was meant to be." This month both take the leads in Martin McDonagh's bloody dark comedy, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. The controversial script is about a ruthless Irish Republican Army enforcer. "We have been looking forward to this for a long time," says Hutchison. "We both read the play and loved it before we knew we were cast in the leads." Later this season the couple will work together again in *Othello*, Shakespeare's tragedy of love, betrayal and madness. Right up their, *ahem*, alley.

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE!

This month Peel Gallery (4411 Montrose St., 713.520.8122) invites you to bring a personal possession to the gallery to be added to the *Virtually Mine* exhibition. "In opposition to current trends that glamorize design as elitist work," says owner Steve Hempel, "the show questions how we value everyday objects."

From right: 'Malice in Wonderland' by Bethan Worthington and a steel floor lamp by Doug Peters

