

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Photography by Cody Bess



I don't know about you, but the best way to my heart is through my stomach. And that's in the form of liquid and solid. I LOVE eating and drinking, and what a great city I live in for both of these. I'm sure you are wondering what's going on on the cover.

It's the perfect marriage of art + food. Think about it, how many wonderful meals have you shared with family or friends that lead to wonderful conversation, inspirational ideas and just the exchange of memories, life and love? This is the art of our daily lives.

Claudia Schmuckli, director and chief curator of the Blaffer Art Museum, sits with Uchi's Chef de Cuisine Kaz Edwards and culinary director Philip Speer who collaborated along with *Texas Monthly* to create a private dinner series leading up to the museum's September exhibit *Feast* (which you can read all about on page 38). *Feast: A Dinner Series* paired Speer and team with five international artists to reinvent the notion of hospitality. With a max of 30 guests per dinner (at \$500 a ticket) held in the private homes of Houston collectors, the multi-course meals with wine pairings are a creative collaboration between artist and chef. The last dinner is on August 17. For details, email Emily Church at [echurch@uh.edu](mailto:echurch@uh.edu).

As Eric Carle's hungry caterpillar ate through everything in sight, I hope you eat your way through our August food+drink issue.

buen provecho + buon appetito + bon appétit + salud + salute + cheers + enjoy

*CARLA VALENCIA*

Carla Valencia de Martínéz  
Editor-in-Chief | Creative Director



002 SOCIAL MEDIA

## BEHIND the COVER

LOCATION: Blaffer Art Museum | University of Houston Campus  
DATE: July 18, 2013 | TIME: 9am – noon

At the top of the stairs at the Blaffer, we set up a drool-worthy feast with Houston's premier event and culinary force in creativity and style — A Fare Extraordinaire. Our "Alice in Wonderland meets Johnny Depp tablescapes" (as A Fare's Lauren Cox dubbed it) pictured below.



New and vintage china, flatware and glasses combined from pulls at Kuhl-Linscomb, A Fare Extraordinaire's collection and Editor-in-Chief, Carla's home were used to create the table.

A Fare's Culinary Executive Team Leader Ryan Bouillet dressed the table in oyster shells, figs, grapes, pomegranates, salt and chocolate blocks plus a bevy of lush greens.



Photographer Cody Bess making moody, dramatic lighting magic.

Shot on location at the Blaffer Art Museum by Cody Bess.

Hair and makeup by Bianca Linette Rivas for Page. 713 Model & Talent Agency. Claudia Schmuckli styled by Vico Puentes. Schmuckli wears a Zac Posen gown from Neiman Marcus, Jimmy Choo heels from Joseph and Mansur bracelet with Michael John earrings at Zadok Jewelers.

Tablescapes created in collaboration with A Fare Extraordinaire. White flowers in vase, L'Objet chargers, metal flowers, silver pitchers and glass dome, all at Kuhl-Linscomb. Everything else is Editor's own.