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**Thedra Cullar-Ledford**  
**Smells Like Good Times**  
24 June through 10 July, 2021

For Immediate Release

Prince Street Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent paintings by Houston artist Thedra Cullar-Ledford. *Smells Like Good Times* features work selected by curator Bill Arning. The opening reception on Thursday, June 24 will begin with a gallery talk by Mr. Arning at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

From his essay to accompany the exhibition, Arning describes the paintings as an "...overwhelming pageant of personages who spill out of her painted surfaces fresh from Instagram Reels and NPR reports. She depicts everyone, both noble or not so noble: startling the world with an elegant poem at a presidential inauguration or slinging hash at the local Waffle House. After a year in which the artist and her supportive husband spent a lot of time on the road seeing only each other, these paintings are jam-packed with other people."

He continues "The mood is brightly colored and celebratory but there is a sense of worry. The faces' smiles are smiles that look forced in juxtaposition with what the artist describes as 'artificial smiles and slack-jawed stares...everyone has traumatized faces in which the eyes don't match the smile, glass-eyed, hollow stares.'"

**Thedra Cullar-Ledford** is the child of two struggling artists, was born in Abilene, Texas, later moved to Mexico City and then to Eagle Pass, a dusty little noplace on the Texas/Mexico border. At just 16, she was emancipated in order to move to Dallas by herself to attend the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. From there, she received a full scholarship to California College of the Arts where she met Stephen on the very first day. They were married by age 21. She received a BFA cum laude in painting and then attended the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford University in the UK for a masters in printmaking and sculpture. The family moved 16 times in 20 years before settling in Houston to establish her practice and build a studio complex which provides workspaces to other Houston artists. Her work is widely exhibited, including a 2016 solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum Houston. They have two grown sons and a whole mess of animals. She exhibits her work regularly at Heidi Vaughan Fine Art, Houston. Website: [www.thedra-art.com](http://www.thedra-art.com)

**Bill Arning** is known primarily as an exhibition maker and over the last 4 decades he has made or contributed to over a hundred of exhibitions globally. In 2021–2023 Arning will be focusing on his new bricks and mortar space in Houston, TX Bill Arning Exhibitions. With two exhibition rooms, the Bill Arning Exhibitions curatorial project space will give the fullest expression to his vision for what art can do to our hearts, minds and souls with 5 to 9 significant projects per year planned. Website: [www.billarning.com](http://www.billarning.com)