

# GALLERY

Southampton's newly-opened T Gallery celebrates local talent, international stars and the healing power of great art. BY DAVID GRAVER



Ruben Alterio's "Kenya" (2012); Mahar (below).

"Most of the art that I've seen in the past few years has been in industrial spaces—but I wanted to reach back in time," says Therese Ryan Mahar, whose T Gallery in Southampton occupies a historic prewar building complete with tin ceilings and wood floors. A warmth envelops the diverse array of pieces that find their way within—each carefully chosen from one artist's catalog per show by Mahar.

"Art is one of the most healing attributes of the planet," says Mahar, whose gallery made its debut earlier this summer. "It is the thing that transcends politics. It transcends all conflict. Art heals. Expression heals."

She's quick to note that this ability hinges on what the artist has imbued within each piece. "I take into consider-



ation an artist's commitment to their process and to the whole of their lives," she explains. "The artists I work with are people whose entire lives have been committed to the camera or the brush or the texture they hope to achieve. Their world has been in pursuit of the next piece. This comes through and imparts meaning to the viewer."

The current exhibition—the gallery's second—showcasing the works of the internationally acclaimed artist Ruben Alterio has served a greater purpose. It's actually the reason Mahar opened the space. Years ago, after a Valentino runway show in Paris, Mahar found herself at dinner with Alterio in the home of photographer Andre Rau. His work happened to be on

Ruben Alterio in his first North American show,  
21 CROWNS July 1st - August 10

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