
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2008
HOUSTON CHRONICLE
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NATURE

■ It's all too obvious: The female rules the roost in Andean cock-of-the-rock family. **PAGE E7**

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Something Qwerky

HOUSTON-based artist Wendy Wagner, who won the prestigious Hunting Art Prize in May, debuts Qwerkys, a line of soft sculptures, next week at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Handcrafted from microfiber and felt, the whimsical plush dolls are based on characters that Wagner has painted, drawn and sculpted in ceramic form. This year's releases are Miss Pretty, a nail polish-wearing octopus; Froggee, a frog in makeup; and Mr. Look at Me, a silly showoff inspired by her husband and business partner. The sculptures are sold at the Con-

temporary Arts Museum Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Laura U Collection, Kuhl-Linscomb and www.glasstire.com. Prices start at \$150.

— MARY VUONG

ARTIST TALK

■ **When:** 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, with a talk by Wagner at 6:30 p.m.

■ **Where:** Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose

■ **Admission:** Free

■ **Information:** www.qwerkys.com

