

HOUSTON

Arts & Power Issue



H-Town Culture Takes Aim!
Houston Ballet's Hunky 'H' Brit
Artists |
Becca, Jagi & the Bs
& P

A LOCAL CULINARY GURUS COMPETE FOR
\$46 FOR HUNGER RELIEF
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THE ARTIST'S HEART

Drawing Inspiration

One of Houston's best-loved artists, Wendy Wagner, who's whimsically feminine, semi-abstract work often seems inspired from a fairy tale—has accomplished much recently, having exhibited a series of prints at Houston's Duke Gallery, and having been offered a solo show at Austin's Women & Their Work gallery in the spring. But her big victory was surviving brain surgery—four times.

To beat brain cancer, she's undergoing chemo at MD Anderson, and making art in her sunny Montrose studio—with a new post-op approach. "Drawing or sculpting is more feasible for me than to paint," she explains, noting that the surgeries resulted in a "left deficit" with the left side of her body less dexterous than her right.

The music she's preparing for Austin is aptly titled "Look to the Left." Largely pencil-sketched, it retains Wagner's signature happy vibe. "To have the motivation to make things," she says, "it's very therapeutic, and it's very real."

PUPPY LOVE

Gwendy Shapiro, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer, finds comfort—and artistic inspiration—in her two Maltese, Robert and Lawrence. "They're my babies, and my muse."