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Texas

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Poets *OF THE* Plains

Texas storytellers and songwriters carry on a beloved cowboy tradition

[TEXAS MADE]

Photo Frame of Mind



"NCD148" a.k.a. *Nuestro Camino Day 14 B*. From a series commemorating the El Camino de Santiago walk in Spain. Mixed Media: digital image, acrylic on canvas.

During her pilgrimage on the El Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain, Heather Lorelei Harris frequently snapped photos of country roads, sunsets, and Spanish villages as she walked 8 to 12 miles a day for 35 days. "For me, it was more spiritual than religious," she says.

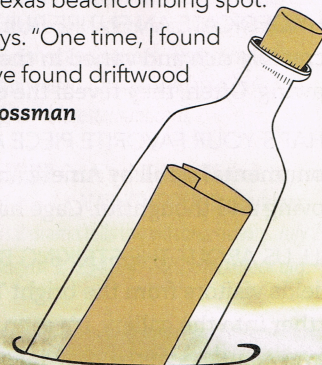
In her Austin studio, Harris digitally enhanced the photos, printed them on canvas, and added acrylic paint. Then she ground, cut, and welded steel to make frames that expand on the photos, making them into three-dimensional art. The completed works are stunning: One frame expands bushes in a photo; another adds a fence. The mixed-media pieces are typical for Harris, a former middle-school science and art teacher who started painting in college after a girlfriend gave her an acrylic paint set.

Harris does commissioned works and etched metal, too, using acid that cuts into frames to create designs. *Etched works* run from \$150 to \$250; *welded pieces* start at \$695. (512) 577-2787; heatherharrisart.com. —Deborah Lynn Blumberg

[ROAD TRIPS]

The Art of Texas Beachcombing

Summer trips to the beach often involve beachcombing. So which Texas beach offers the most interesting finds? We put the question to **Stephen Leatherman, a.k.a. Dr. Beach**, who each year compiles a list of the nation's 10 best beaches. The former Houston resident has never put a Texas beach on the list, but he does have a favorite Texas beachcombing spot: the sandy shores of Padre Island. "The east wind on the Gulf blows everything that way," he says. "One time, I found a coconut from Florida and an oil drum that probably came from one of the rigs in the Gulf. I've found driftwood and bottles. I once found a bottle with a note in it—probably tossed off a cruise ship." —Lori Grossman



FROM TOP: KIMBERLY DAVIS (2), FREEPIK (2)