The Essential A&E Picks for Mar. 7–13

Invisible, Katya Zamolodchikova, Sebastian Maniscalco, NOVA Chamber Music

By City Weekly Staff

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Art Access Gallery: Invisible
During a month intended for huddling inside, it would take something extraordinary to draw art lovers out into the frigid weather. So, layer on the sweaters, because Art Access Gallery has an exhibition that burns with intensity.

Frequently offering cutting-edge themes, the gallery tackles a subject matter not regularly discussed. While chronic illnesses often are referred to as "invisible" because the effects aren't always outwardly evident, Invisible chronicles that experience from the perspective of artists Katie Benson and Betsy Auwerda (pictured).

"Hidden disabilities are so misunderstood," Art Access executive director Shandra Benito says. "We feel like we are telling an incomplete story if we don't include artwork which brings their unique challenges to light."

Creating grace out of destruction requires a unique artistic mindset. Manipulating personal scans with cyanotype printmaking is just one of the techniques Auwerda uses to transform clinical images into a relatable experience. "I wanted to turn something that made me blue into something that was bright and beautiful," Auwerda says. Similarly, Benson uses various media to portray the devastating effects of the challenges she faces daily, such as with the carefully stitched wall hanging "Energy Levels." With their storytelling artistry, these longtime sufferers of invisible maladies hope to serve as voices of validation for others who also feel unseen by bringing greater awareness to this concealed, yet common, experience.

Invisible is showing in the main gallery adjacent to Our (un)Natural World, a mixed-media presentation by seven artists reflecting on the erratic relationship between humans and the environment. (Colette A. Finney)

Invisible @ Art Access Gallery, 230 S. 500 West, Ste. 125, through March 8, accessart.org