San Francisco artist Liz Hickok’s “Prehistoric,” a sublimation print on aluminum, is among works on view during Houston Center for Photography’s 34th Annual Juried Membership Exhibition July 19-Sept. 7.

A BIG PARTY: Houston’s summer’s largest art party night, with the opening of two shows featuring dozens of artists. More than 500 area artists submitted work this year for “The Big Show” at Lawndale Art Center. Curators Tina Kulsis and Aspa DiQuinto tackled the gargantuan judging job. See who made their cut 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, “The Big Show” will be on view through Aug. 27 at 4912 Main; 713-528-5658, lawndaleartcenter.org. Meanwhile, more than 180 artists from around the globe submitted work for Houston Center for Photography’s 34th Annual Juried Membership Exhibition. Curator Yasumito Nakamori chose 40. For a full night of eye candy, start there at 5:30 p.m. Nakamori speaks at 6 p.m., and several of the artists speak at 11 a.m. Saturday; on view through Sept. 4 at 1441 W. Alabama, 713-529-4755, hcponline.org. FREE

FREE: Thursday, July 21 to Wednesday, July 27, 2016

RIBBALS BUT RIGHTWORDS: William Copley didn’t study the world through a pinhole, but for years his often absurd paintings didn’t get much serious credit. The Menil Collection has given him a large-posthumous retrospective, aiming to reanimate CPLP— as he signed his work— as a connecting figure between the Surrealists and Pop artists. This is your last weekend to catch “The World According to CPLP” along with “Life in Cellb,” Foster/White Gallery’s Brennan Photographs, which is at the other end of the hall, figuratively and literally. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Through Sunday, 1441 W. Alabama; 713-529-4755, menil.org. FREE

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ROCKABLY RAGES ON: Now in its 18th year, Rock Baby Rock it spans three days with hours of noticeably and off-school rock ‘n roll. Humidity is the headliner Thursday; with Three Blue Eyed Angels on Friday. Saturday is the big gun, through Linda Gail Lewis, Jerry Dixon, and a litany of great recordings with Brotherhood and Van Morrison. Thurday: Saturday at the Continental Club, 1500 Main; tickets $10-$20 daily, $63 for three-day pass; 713-593-9925, continentalclub.com. Andree Benda

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