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Publisher

Publisher's Note

Jan/Feb 2009



In 2008, the world, our nation, and our vibrant city changed in more dramatic ways than ever before. On a personal level, the same holds true for me. My husband Chuck and I welcomed our first child, Ashley Ryan, into the world. As if that weren't enough change for one year, I left the *Wall Street Journal* after nearly a decade to join *Modern Luxury Dallas*.

From the financial crisis to ongoing geopolitical unrest, most of us were ready to bring down the curtain on a tumultuous 2008. Even though last year had its share of high points—the Olympics and the election (historic no matter which side you were on) to name just a few—most of us are just happy to have '08 behind us.

Thankfully, our city is more insulated from the weakened economy than many other regions of the country. If there is any city that should feel confident about recovery, my bet is on Dallas.

Certainly you can depend on *Modern Luxury Dallas* to celebrate the best that our city has to offer. Cultural life in Dallas—especially the arts—has enjoyed a remarkable year. The Goss-Michael Foundation brought Damien Hirst and his dangerously provocative pieces, including *Saint Sebastian*, *Exquisite Pain*, to Dallas. Think about the feat it was to transport and set up the King Tutankhamun exhibit, a world-renowned treasure, currently on display at the Dallas Museum of Art. Talley Dunn continues

to be a shining star on the arts scene with her knack for discovering up-and-coming talents. And, we can't wait to see what's in store on Dragon Street, or watch the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts filling in the skyline.

The Dallas Art Fair is another coup for our city. Chris Byrne and John Sughrue have attracted more than 30 prominent art dealers from around the country, including Dallas' own Dunn and Brown Contemporary and Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden, to exhibit at the Fashion Industry Gallery in the revitalized Dallas Arts District. With so many prominent collectors right here in our backyard, why not Dallas? In fact, what took so long? Thanks, too, to our friends at Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, Neiman Marcus and Sotheby's, who joined *Modern Luxury Dallas* in support of the Dallas Art Fair.

As the new publisher of *Modern Luxury Dallas*, I am thrilled to be part of the promise of change that makes life so worth living. Astonished and hopeful, I watch it as a mother, as Ashley figures out the world a little bit more each day. I am also proud to be a part of such a fantastic family of people and publications. *Modern Luxury Dallas* has made its mark on this city in so many ways since its launch four years ago. I look forward to a bright 2009 and beyond at the helm of this great magazine.

Enjoy this issue. It's for you.