



VIZARTS



Matt Haffner

The "Serial City" installations, including at 133 Nassau (left) and Midtown Bowl, set up enigmatic high-art scenarios that seem to respond to the architecture.

Draw conclusions

ART BLENDS GRAFFITI, CINEMA AND USES OLD BUILDINGS AS MOVIE SCREEN

By CATHERINE FOX / cfox@ajc.com



THERE ARE SOME STRANGE apparitions lurking around town. Maybe you've noticed the giant man riding a dime-store rocking horse looming from a brick wall

on Marietta Street, or a couple struggling (she's winning) behind 20th Century Antiques on North Highland Avenue. It's sort of like passing by a drive-in theater and catching a frame of the movie — something is happening but you don't know quite what.

Call it high-art graffiti: Matt Haffner has mounted these blow-ups on the sides or backs

of 14 buildings — with the owners' permission — for "Serial City," a public art project

sponsored by Atlanta Celebrates Photography.

The project dovetails with Haffner's longtime interests, including stealth graffiti, cinema (especially film noir) and old urban buildings.

The Atlanta artist plays writer, director and set designer. He shoots the photos using friends and professional models. He dreams up the enigmatic scenarios. And he sets up the scenes in ways that respond to the architecture — like, say, the way that the figure leans into the actual corner of the building on

Nassau Street.

Haffner makes cameo appearances at 471 North Highland Ave. and 319 Walker St. He's the guy with the hat.

These won't be up forever. Some will come down at the end of the month, others when the building is demolished or renovated. Finding them might make a great scavenger hunt.

► **THE 411:** "Serial City." 404-634-8664. For maps, see www.matthaffner.com.

LOCATIONS:

Downtown: Daniel Kane's law office, 133 Nassau St.

Castleberry Hill: 319 Walker St.; 239

Peters St.

West End: Randall Brothers, 665 Marietta St.; the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, 535 Means St.

Midtown: Midtown Promenade outside Landmark Theatre, 931 Monroe Drive; Midtown Bowl, 1926 Piedmont Circle

Virginia-Highland: 20th Century Antiques, 1044 N. Highland Ave.; Wisteria Restaurant, 471 N. Highland Ave.

Old Fourth Ward/Grant Park: Building at Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue across from Javaology; Thumbs Up Diner, 573 Edgewood Ave.; metal building at 349 Decatur St.; Youngblood Gallery, 629 Glenwood Ave.

► **ALSO:** Meet Haffner and curator Joey Orr Oct. 27 at the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, 500 10th St. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Talk at 7.