

art commentary With Marion Wolberg Weiss

"100 YEARS OF ART" AT DECORDOVA STUDIO AND GALLERY

It's refreshing to change one's gallery-going routine from time to time, so that's why a trip to Greenport, and especially to the new deCordova Studio and Gallery, is salient. It's also important because artist/gallery-owner/teacher Hector deCordova has had many years experience exercising both a keen eye for visual excitement and an appreciation for diverse materials and media.

This expertise, combined with Mr. deCordova's gallery ambience, is another good reasons to visit Greenport. Let's face it, there aren't many similar venues located in a house where people actually live. (The exceptions being Paul Wingett's former gallery/residence, also in Greenport, and Nova's Ark Project in Bridgehampton). And, of course, there are many former mansions in both New York, for example, and Europe that are now art galleries. But, no one lives there.



There is also something special about deCordova's gallery/domicile that is warm, welcoming and charming, perhaps because the edifice conveys a strong sense of character and history.

The current show reinforces the owner's and the gallery's unique qualities - varied media and stimulating subjects and a lively and cordial setting.

While the theme features artists who are under 25 or over 70 years old, we'd be hard put to know which was which, all the more reason to believe that the artists, no matter what their age, are in command of both their techniques and materials.

Roseanne Schwab's monotypes, like "Boxed in" and "Red Valley," are delightfully evocative of any number of experiences and objects, even though they are most definitely abstract. For example, we can imagine a psychological state and the Southwest vista, respectively.

Conversely, Chris Hanson's "Temptation" is definitely realistic, featuring a couple in the middle of a defining "moment," recalling the narrative works of Eric Fischl. Felicitas Wetter's color etchings represent another medium, which evokes various responses, from modern sensibilities to ancient artifacts in "Ancient Gardens," to a political statement, where grid configurations in "Veiled Lady" entrap the female figure.

Alexander Russo's "Dancing Cyborg" celebrates an opposing condition, where the female celebrates life and empowerment, not victimization as suggested by "Veiled Lady." Russo's larger canvas, "Angel," contradicts the modern look of his Cyborg creature, an ethereal, mythic figure who disappears into the background. The work is provocative and compelling. What is her mission? Has she accomplished it? Will she return?

Sculptures by Norman Mercer and Kristian Iglesias are similarly diverse - Mr. Mercer's signature plastic cubes reflecting natural light, Mr. Iglesias' curving, dynamic metal form suggesting strength and energy.

Michael Carolan's woodblock prints are likewise forceful in their use of material, craftsmanship and vigor. His "Self Portrait" especially communicates the idea of power and life-giving attributes.

Lianne Alcon, Josef Head and Fay Moore complete the exhibition with their equally diverse employment of materials in creative ways.

The current show will be on view until July 29. Call 631-477-0620 for information and directions

- Marion Wolberg Weiss

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