

ASHTONGALLERY

presents a national exhibition

BLACKOUT

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FROM THE JUROR...

I'm very pleased and proud to be associated with this national "Blackout" exhibition and catalogue publication that received nearly 900 entries. The outstanding response provided me with many diverse and quality artworks in which to interpret and curate this intriguing theme. To me, the act of curating an exhibition is a creative act of "contextualization," utilizing the submitted material of talented, insightful, and brilliant artists who act as "content" makers.

My curatorial focus and attention for this exhibition was primarily aimed towards selecting artworks that address this theme from two main perspectives: 1) artworks that address the visual, formal, and objective impact of the color black within the artist's palette and composition, and 2) artworks that create a "dark" perspective, symbolism, and/or psychological narrative that engages the viewer. In many instances, the color black is dominant and its influence is immediate and obvious. In other instances, the blackness (or darkness) of the artwork is 'felt' rather than 'seen.' Black is the primordial void

where light and color are absent and a place where the deeper mysteries of life and consciousness thrive.

This exhibition presents 83 artworks of great diversity of mediums, styles, and perspectives. I must admit, in the final cut there were many exceptional artworks that were ultimately declined...a testimony to the quality and talent that was submitted for this exhibition theme from around the country. Every effort was made to balance this exhibition between representational and abstract approaches/styles. And, in special cases (as with the Best in Show and 1st Place award winners), I absolutely love and relish artworks that successfully weave and blur the lines between realism and abstraction—creating a unique tension and visual dynamic that richly nourishes the viewer.

The process that I employed in the jurying was painstaking and labor-intensive—reviewing and studying each artwork at least a dozen times—attempting to "walk in the artist's shoes" to understand the inherent intent of the artwork and examining its thematic relevance. Most of the artworks selected for this exhibition were revisited dozens of times over a

good number of days. Mastery of technical skills and materials is important, but connecting and engaging the viewer was my top priority. Also, all things being equal, I give the benefit of the doubt to artists who challenge themselves to break off from the beaten path and take chances/risks. I want to be surprised by how an artwork grabs my attention and makes me see or feel something deeply powerful.

Many thanks to all participating and selected artists and to Art on 30th in San Diego for their outstanding conceptualization of the exhibition and extensive efforts to produce and present this ambitious exhibition.

Daniel Foster

AWARD WINNERS

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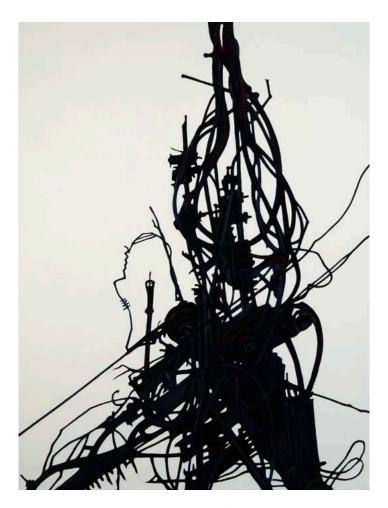
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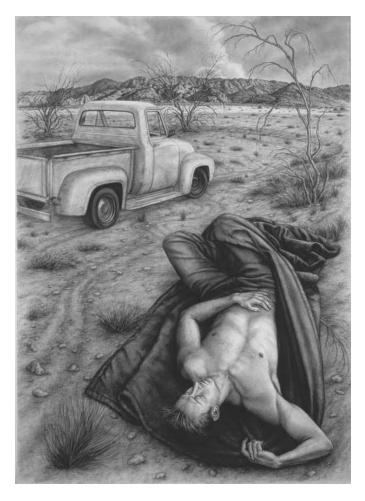


"I HAVE BEEN 40 YEARS DISCOVERING THAT THE QUEEN OF ALL COLORS WAS BLACK."

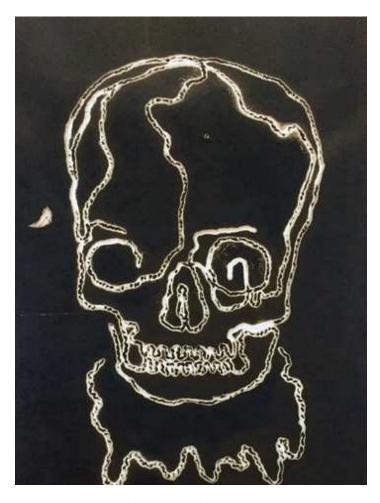
PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR



HALE ALLEN "WIRE CALLOSITY" | OIL | 48" X 36" PHILADELPHIA, PA



"SLUMBER AT CHUCKWALLA" | CHARCOAL & CRAYON ON PAPER | 41" X 29" GLENDALE, CA



TIMOTHY ARMSTRONG
"TAR & TWINE SKULL" | TAR PAPER MONOTYPE PRINT | 39" X 25"
SAN FRANCISCO, CA



DONALD BABISCH
"LA MOME BIJOU" | MIXED MEDIA | 76" X 51"
POLAND, OH



MATTHEW BACHER
"PIGEONS AND HIPSTERS" | OIL | 36" X 24"
SAN DIEGO, CA



PETER BACZEK
"NX2 LAUREL" | ETCHING | 11" X 14"
OAKLAND, CA



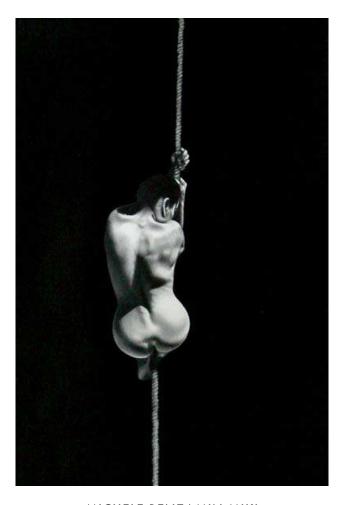
"SHIMMER" | OIL ON PANEL | 12" X 9" OREFIELD, PA



LISA BEBI "BLACK & WHITE 1" | ACRYLIC | 36" X 48" LA MESA, CA



*WAR GAMES" | SCRATCHBOARD | 36" X 24" GREENVILLE, SC



MICHELE BENZAMIN-MIKI "STILL LIFE" | PENCIL ON PAPER | 19" X 16" WARNER SPRINGS, CA



"THE FLIP SIDE" | PIGMENT INKJET PRINT | 16" X 12" SOLDOTNA, AK



"I⁢LMR" | DIGITAL IMAGERY | 20" X 20" ASHLAND, OH



SUSAN BROOK "SONNET OF SPHERES" | ACRYLIC | 20" X 20" DEL MAR, CA



JOAN LOBIS BROWN
"UNTITLED #4" | ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT | 13" X 19"
NEW YORK, NY



CLAIRE BROWNE

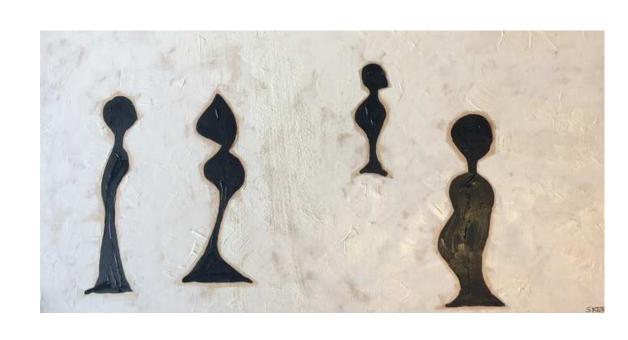
"TRAILS" | COLLAGED PAPER & INK | 8" X 8" PORTLAND, OR



MARTIN BRUINSMA "CYGNUS" | ACRYLIC | 40" X 60" |INGLEWOOD, CA



PATRICIA CALABRO
"SATIS" | ACRYLIC | 24" X 18"
PACHECO, CA



KERRY CAMPBELL "THE WAY WE WERE" | ACRYLIC | 48" X 24" ENCINITAS, CA



"FLEDGLING" | MIXED MEDIA | 48" X 36" ENCINITAS, CA



MARGARET CHIARO "DEFENDER OF THE DELICATE" | OIL ON WOOD | 28" X 15" OCEANSIDE, CA



KAY CROSS
"PASSION" | WATERCOLOR | 23" X 30"
NORTH RICHARDLAND HILLS, TX



SHEILA DAUBE "CROSSING THE RUBICON" | MIXED MEDIA | 48" X 48" POWAY, CA



SHEILA DAUBE "ORACLE AT DELPHI" | MIXED MEDIA | 48" X 96" POWAY, CA



"#NOWALL" | MIXED MEDIA | 45" X 62" SAN DIEGO, CA



"MAXIMUM SECURITY" | ARTIST'S BOOK/SCULPTURE | 18" X 15" X 10" SANTA MONICA, CA



HEATHER DOUGLAS
"NIGHT DIRVING #5" | ENCAUSTIC | 12" X 12"
ORANGEBURG, NY



JOELLE DRIVER

"MEMORY IN THE DYING" | ACRYLIC, FLUID MIXING MEDIUM & SILICONE | 12" X 12" SAN DIEGO, CA



"JABOT" | CHARCOAL ON ARCHES | 15" X 10" PHILADELPHIA, PA



SARAH DUPRE

"ALLOWING THE NATURE OF HIS CONQUEST TO BECOME THE CONQUEROR OF HIS NATURE" SCRATCHBOARD | 14" X 11" DEKALB, IL

HONORABLE MENTION

The horror vacui rhythmic composition that surges throughout this scratchboard was created by using a drypoint scribe. "Allowing the Nature of His Conquest to Become the Conqueror of His Nature" depicts a swarming atmosphere of beings that constrict a warrior who has succumbed to his own internal conflicts by yielding to primary bestial appetites. This work explores the shadow archetype by investigating what the super-ego may not identify with.

-Sarah Dupre





"WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT COLOR TO PUT DOWN, I PUT DOWN BLACK."

HENRI MATISSE



"SHE CROW" | MIXED MEDIA | 36" X 24" SAN DIEGO, CA



CURTIS FREDERICK
"MINX" | CLAY | 14" X 9" X 8"
ROCKWALL, TX



RUTH FROMSTEIN
"UNKNOWN DESTINATION" | MIXED MEDIA | 20" X 20"
SAN DIEGO, CA



LEAH GERRARD "Knot" | Steel Wire found object | 11" x 8" x 8" Vashon, Wa



ANN GOLUMBUK "SILVER LINING" | MIXED MEDIA | 50" X 64" SAN DIEGO, CA



RONALD GONZALEZ
"BLACK FLAME DRAWING" | CARBON ON PAPER | 13" X 12"

JOHNSON CITY, NY



SHELDON GREENBERG

"THE DREAM" | OIL ON PAPER | 20" X 20" OAKLAND, CA

BEST IN SHOW

The dream state. The moment of before or after something is happening. A place where things are not quite clear, a bit off balance, and seeming to make sense, but not after a thorough investigation. Are we looking at a person sleeping, or is this the vision of the sleeper? The interaction of the male/female relationship is particularly fascinating to me. The females in my work are the dominant figure, with the males playing a secondary role in the scene. The visual is made in a series of unfinished stages, and this helps to keep things off balance. The goal is for the viewer to bring there own vision and history to the images.

-Sheldon Greenberg





"ANDRO 9" | OIL & ALKYD | 24" X 24" SEVERN, MD



JEFF HAROLD "PRIMORDIAL DAWN" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 13" X 20" ANTIOCH, IL



GREGORY HEIN
"AMONG ALL THESE MADMEN" | ACRYLIC | 10" X 10"
GERMANTOWN, MD



"ENTROPY" | INK & GRAPHITE | 30" X 23" ANTIOCH, CA

HONORABLE MENTION

In "Entropy," I use an unremarkable and common subject, hair, to render organic, grotesque forms that celebrate the collapse into disorder. Disorder itself often has humble origins, and "Entropy" is no different. This celebration of chaos enmeshes the familiar with the foreign and finds richness in the new life that comes from degeneration.

ASHTON GALLERY AWARD WINNING ARTIST

-Erica Holloway



STEPHANIE HOLZNECHT "LAMP LIGHT" | ACRYLIC | 36" X 36" JANESVILLE, WI



*THE SWAMP" | WOODBLOCK PRINT | 26" X 20" PASADENA, CA



ROBERT HYATT

"RSVP NO. 72" | PHOTOGRAPHY & MIXED MEDIA | 16" X 22" ARVADA, CO



CHARLES KARP
"NOTRE DAME LA NUIT" | OIL ON LINEN | 30" X 40"
CAMARILLO, CA



"THE CONDUCTOR" | OIL ON WOOD | 12" X 12" CARLSBAD, CA



PAUL KAUFFMAN
"THE COLLAPSE OF EDEN" | MIXED MEDIA | 60" X 48"
OCEANSIDE, CA



BARBARA KIBBE

"A WALK IN THE DARK" | ART QUILT/FIBER ART | 43" X 39" PACIFICA, CA



RAY KOH "BLACKED OUT" | ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT | 22" X 17" CARMEL, CA

HONORABLE MENTION

I use drone technologies to forage for what I term "wild content." Drones allow me to conceptually paint and draw in place of traditional methods and means. However, unlike most drone enthusiasts, I work more akin to an archaeologist where my brush is more an eraser that removes unnecessary elements so that only extracted subject-matter remains. While my methodology begins with aerial photography, the actual creative process involves removing rather than adding. My work focuses on primordial artistic concepts such as portraiture, still life, line drawing, and abstracts to convey deeper contemporary issues.

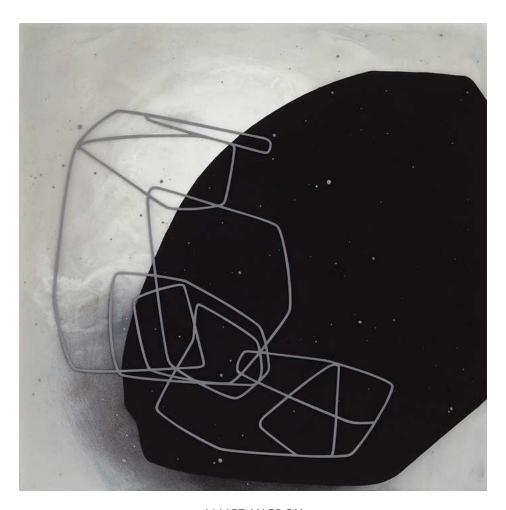




"HOW DO YOU STAND OUT?" | COLLOGRAPH WITH ETCHING | 15" X 12" RIVERSIDE, CA



MICHAEL LIGETT
"UNDER CONSTRUCTION" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 36" X 24"
CARY, NC



"2017 #9" | MIXED MEDIA | 12" X 12" SAN RAFAEL, CA



DEBRA MAGELLAN
"MR. BIG'S LOVER" | ACRYLIC ON PAPER | 40" X 30"
SAN DIEGO, CA

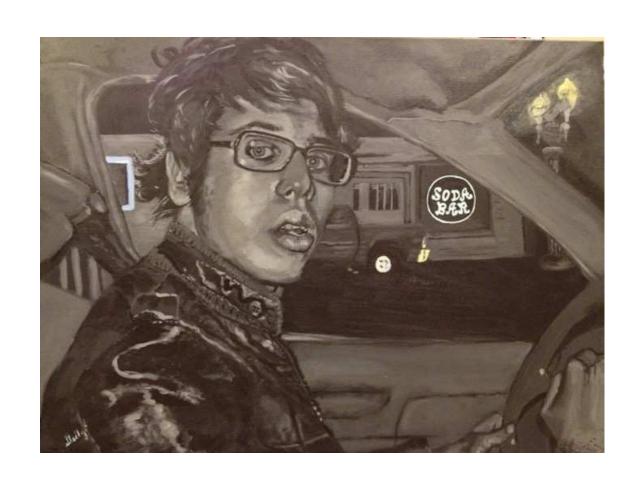


"A PAINTER SHOULD
BEGIN EVERY CANVAS
WITH A WASH OF BLACK,
BECAUSE ALL THINGS
IN NATURE ARE DARK
EXCEPT WHERE EXPOSED
BY THE LIGHT."

LEONARDO DA VINCI



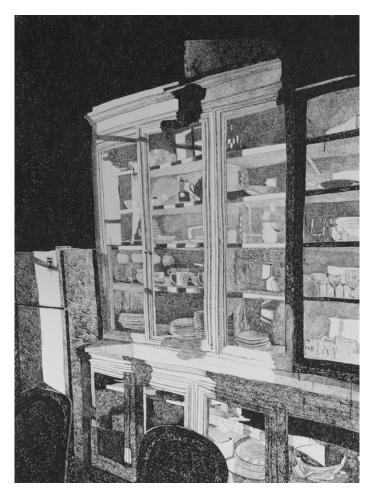
BARBARA MARTIN
"AIM HIGH" | MIXED MEDIA | 24" X 16"
HILLSBORO, OR



SHELBY MARZONI
"CRUISIN' THE BOULEVARD" | ACRYLIC | 30" X 40"
| IMPERIAL BEACH, CA



DAVIS MASSEY
"STANDING IN RAIN" | PEN | 11" X 15"
ORANGE, CA



MERIDITH MCNEAL "LIA MIA CUCINA A ROMA" | INK ON PAPER | 74" X 55" BROOKLYN, NY



CHUCK MCPHERSON
"T STORM" | ACRYLIC & LATEX | 110" X 24"
SAN DIEGO, CA



"USE YOUR OWN TWO FEET" | MIXED MEDIA | 36" X 72" SAN DIEGO, CA



"GROW XII" | MIXED MEDIA | 48" X 48" SAN DIEGO, CA



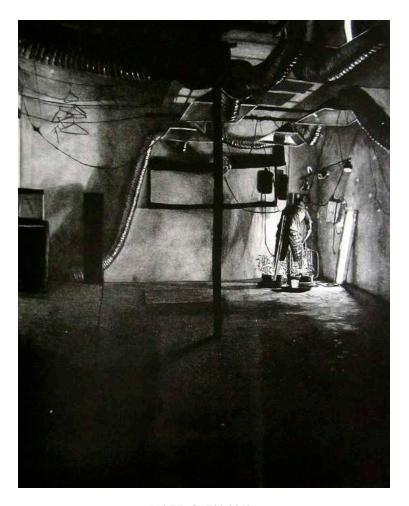
LINDA O'NEILL "TENACITY" | ACRYLIC | 40" X 30" LAFAYETTE, CO

HONORABLE MENTION

My painting "Tenacity" represents the determination it takes to overcome difficulties in life. Tenacity represents courage, perseverance, a strength of purpose and follow through. These qualities have been crucial for me in my own mental health struggles with OCD and anxiety. The conflict and redemption of my experiences are expressed in my abstracts. Pain vs healing, fulfillment vs loss, contentment vs unrest are all important elements. I work intuitively to bring raw, authentic emotion to the canvas using acrylics, collage, paint pen, oil pencil, caran d'ache, and ink. I enjoy hearing what people feel when they see my work and I hope that I connect to others who suffer from similar issues.

- Linda O'Neill





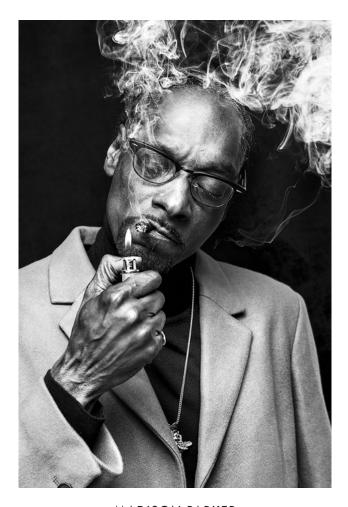
"GARAGE" | LITHOGRAPH | 30" X 22" PENNGROVE, CA

FIRST PLACE

As a Fine Artist from the North Bay, I illustrate my unique perspective as an insider in California's marijuana industry. The lithograph "Garage" from the series "Cottage Industry" depicts the concurrence of the harvest and the growing season. A grower in his indoor, post-harvest and the beginning of the next crop, gathers his young plants in the corner of the room under a makeshift light source while the corner in shadow shows empty hangars and a single branch, the remnants of the last harvest. The print is a sincere reflection of the entrepreneurship and courage of the individuals building this industry.

- Kate Oltmann





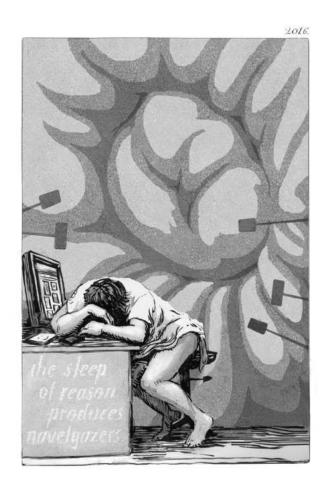
MADISON PARKER
"THE DOG FATHER" | STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY | 36" X 24"
POWAY, CA



"THE PRIEST" | OIL ON SILVER LEAF | 48" X 24" VISTA, CA

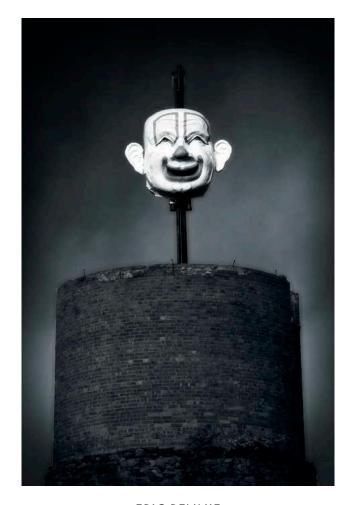


ANSLEY PYE
"CALLA ON BLACK" | OIL | 48" X 24"
SAN DIEGO, CA



BRIAN REEVES

"THE SLEEP OF REASON PRODUCES MAVELGAZER" | DIGITAL DRAWING | 12" X 8" SOUTH PORTLAND, ME



"CLOWN GOD" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 24" X 18" CROMWELL, CT



GAIL ROGERS
"SUN DRYING THE RAIN" | ACRYLIC | 36" X 36"
CORONADO, CA



PAUL SANTOLERI

"BLACK ON GOLDEN" | ACRYLIC ON WOOD BOXCUTTING TEMPLATE | 15" X 32" PHILADELPHIA, PA



MIHAELA SAVU "THE CURIOUS CASE OF MORNING CHAT" | OIL | 48" X 36" JONESBORO, AR



MELODY SCHOTTE
"WEDDING DRESS" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 16" X 16"
HURST, TX



DAVID SHANNON"BUGS" | OIL | 30" X 24"
BURBANK, CA



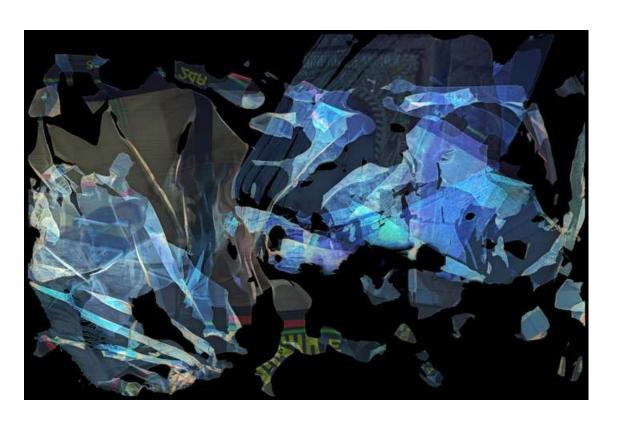
DIANE SILVER
"MAP OF THE HIDDEN PLACES IN MY HEART" | ACRYLIC | 48" X 48"
PHOENIX, AZ

JUROR'S CHOICE

In my painting, "Map of the Hidden Places in My Heart," I mine the elusive fields of my memories and daydreams for the subject matter and inspiration for this work. Maps are a powerful tool for understanding the world and in this case, I use the analogy of a map as a way to access and reveal my inner world. My interest in charting my emotions and states of feeling combine with my interest in the process of making art. My visual language is constructed by layering paint and gestural marks to expose, erase, hide and then bring back into focus various elements of the painting. I work spontaneously and intuitively to allow the painting to evolve through a variety of stages much like an archaeologist sifting for clues through different layers of earth.

AWARD WINNING ARTIST

- Diane Silver



STERNE SLAVEN

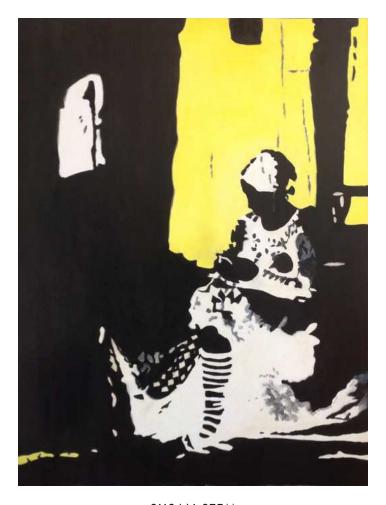
"MANIPULATED #1878" | PHOTOGRAPHIC SCANNING | 16" X 24" DEMAREST, NJ



John Sproul "Blackened White 39" | Graphite | 23" x 20" Salt lake city, ut



AMANDA ST CLAIRE
"CONVERSATION WITH AN ABSTRACT ARTIST" | OIL | 48" X 30"
SAN DIEGO, CA



SUSAN STEM
"CONTEMPORARY ANACHRONISM" | OIL | 48" X 36"
LA MESA, CA



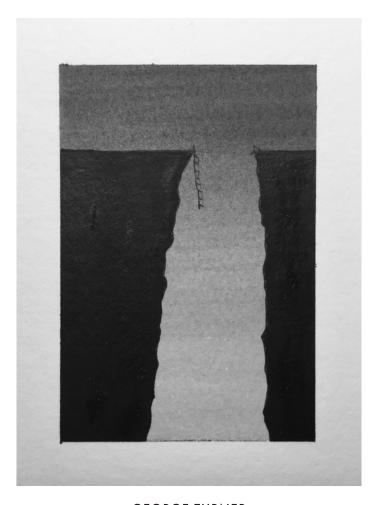
NELA STERIC "WALL NO. 3" | WATERCOLOR & INK ON YUPO PAPER | 19" X 13" NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA



NATHAN TAVES
"SHEER SPACE" | OIL | 36" X 24"
COLUMBIA CITY, IN



SUSAN TAYLOR
"DAYS OF DARKNESS" | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS SCRAPS & MIRROR SHARDS | 44" X 38"
CENTENNIAL, CO



GEORGE TURNER
"RIFT" | WATERCOLOR | 3" X 2"
SWAMPSCOTT, MA



PAULA VALENZUELA "UNDERWORLD" | MIXED MEDIA | 48" X 36" PIEDMONT, CA



LAURA VICTORE "LEO DANCING" | SCRATCHBOARD | 20" X 16" SARASOTA, FL



LARRY VOGEL
"REFLECTION, NARROW PASSAGE" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 25" X 11"
OCEANSIDE, CA



GABRIELLA WILLENZ "BE COMFORTABLE AND SAFE" | PHOTOGRAPHY | 23" X 19" BERKELEY, CA



PATRICK WILLIAMS

"IF WE KNEW WHY THEY DID IT...THEN WE WOULD, TOO"
BRONZE & COAL | 14" X 14" X 6" ARCATA, CA



DUKE WINDSOR
"BLACK NO. 6" | I MIXED MEDIA | 36" X 36"
LA MESA, CA



DONNA WOLFE"INTRIGUE" | ACRYLIC | 26" X 19"
HOUSTON, TX

HONORABLE MENTION

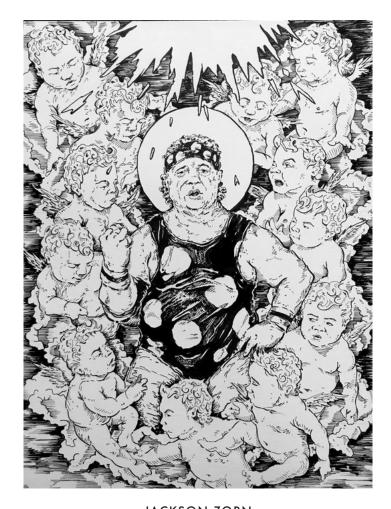
Swirling around this narrative painting titled "Intrigue", conflicting images tear at my heart. The painting could be a scene from a forgotten event, or a disaster reported on the nightly news. The woman's fate is realized at the very moment the escaping crowd deserts her. To the left, another group fish with no other concern than dinner tonight. Mighty nature, on my canvas, is imaged as a terrorist, an alligator, whose very presence makes her demise high drama. Or, should we say, the intrigue all women face today. Wolfe challenges the viewer to interpret meaning and relevance by taking a journey into her canvas.

- Donna Wolfe





YIIOMA "GENESIS:" | ACRYLIC | 48" X 36" SAN DIEGO, CA



JACKSON ZORN "DEAD WRESTLER PARADISE" | INK ON PAPER | 12" X 8" CLUTE, TX

FROM KATE...

Ashton Gallery at Art on 30th is proud to present this provocative national exhibition, "BLACKOUT," that opened the week before Halloween. We thank all 324 artists (from 41 states) who entered their art for selection.

We chose this theme because black is such a potent "color." It was the first color to be used by artists on cave walls. The animal paintings made approximately 17,000 years ago in the Lascaux Cave in France were done with charcoal and black pigments made by burning or grinding bones.

Black is an evocative color for all cultures. It represents the womb of night, birthplace of all things creative. It is seductive, powerful and elegant. It is formal, prestigious and mysterious. It is dark, poignant and ceremonial. The iconic black dress and sexy black leather jacket hanging in virtually every closet in America are a testament to the pervasive and lingering love of black.

We hope you enjoy this diverse show of all things....noir.



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