

Peering into the mind of an artist

'Interior Monologues: Views into the Artist's Mind' opens today at PV Gallery

By ERIK CHALHOUB OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN



"Joy Dance," sgraffito on clayboard and acrylic, by Stephanie Schriver, is part of the newest exhibit at the Pajaro Valley Gallery.

WATSONVILLE The new exhibit at Pajaro Valley Gallery, "Interior Monologues : Views into the Artist's Mind," which opens today, asks the participating artists to reveal themselves in an emotional and personal way.

So emotional, in fact, that some "burst into tears" when describing their work, said gallery committee member Susan Matulich.

"We wanted to get into what's on (the artists') mind through their art," she said.



Courtesy of Mary Altier "Eggistential" by Mary Altier is on display at the Pajaro Valley Gallery.

As part of the gallery's annual collective show from all the members of the Pajaro Valley Arts Council, 71 artists were invited to look within themselves through a variety of media, such as photography, silkscreen, encaustic, watercolor, stained glass and sculpture , among others. Artists had to work within a 20-by-16-inch space.

A reception will be held at the gallery on July 15 from 2-4 p.m.

All the artists took a unique approach to the assignment, from politics, landscapes , portraits and more. Matulich and fellow gallery committee member Teresa Zolar admitted that they wondered how it would all tie together under one cohesive theme. Fortunately, it turned out to be a nonissue . "It's kind of magical how such disparate pieces came together," Zolar said.

Zolar cited an analogy of a paddle ball to describe how the exhibit works. As the ball stretches away from the paddle, it is always pulled back. In comparison, as the artists took off on their own interpretations , they were always drawn back to the main theme.

La Selva Beach-based photographer Mary Altier, who travels the world photographing people and landscapes, found that a photograph she took at Arunachal Pradesh, a state in India, exemplified her self.

"It represents what I most like to do as a photographer and have been doing for the past 40 years: documenting the everyday lives of tribal people in the developing world," she said.

The photograph, titled "Eggistential," was shot in the outskirts of a small tribal village. The sculptures in the photo, constructed out of egg shells and bamboo, were meant to "keep the evil spirits from coming into the village," Altier said.

"That image was so haunting," she said.

Painter Sally Vaughn, of Aptos, found that the process behind her piece in the exhibit, "Reaction," was particularly revealing of her artistic style. "I always approach a blank paper with a brush filled with color and never know what will appear before me," she said. "The process for this particular painting was quite mesmerizing, which is not an usual experience for me when I paint." "When something happens in my life, what is my 'Reaction'?" she added. "My response to the catalyst determines, in part, the direction of my life."

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On Sunday, the PVAC will be joined by students from EA Hall Middle School, Renaissance High School and Ceiba College Prep Middle and High schools to affix close to 100 black and white photographic portraits on buildings throughout downtown Watsonville.

The "Inside Out" photo project , based out of Paris, France, is a worldwide initiative that hopes to spread peace within communities. Photographic portraits that promote peace have been placed in cities from Tel Aviv, Israel, to Caracas, Venezuela .

The students and the PVAC are looking for volunteers to help install the portraits. Volunteers are asked to bring brushes, push brooms and ladders to paste the 3-by-5-foot posters. Contact Jean Beebe at 688-1907 to volunteer .

For information on the Inside Out project, visit [www.insideoutproject .net](http://www.insideoutproject.net).

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Reaction Tempera on Paper, photo added by Sally for the PDF