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'Art Biennial' Exhibition Deserves a Visit Today

Natsoulas show features cutting edge of modern art around the world and in RV's

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Art enthusiasts visited the Natsoulas Gallery on Saturday evening for the Western Biennale of Art. Here guests at the Natsoulas Gallery can also enjoy an RV art exhibition curated by Charles Linder, Tim Brown, Carl Fiacco and LG Williams.



LG Williams, *RV Attack 2005*. Photo: Brendan Pattengal

Children dart into an RV while their parents speak with a photographer. An RV artist dances to the music of a local band. The RVs parked on the curb house a traveling art show. The first *Western Biennale of Art* and *Western RV Biennale of Art*, currently on exhibition at the John Natsoulas Center for the Arts, brings together artists from around the world, connecting a global art community. At the gallery, artists and art aficionados alike admire the show's diversity.

Decorating the large, white walls of the RV gallery are pieces from all over the world. Pieces by local artists are featured along with those of artists from Wilmington, Kansas City and Iran, among other locations. A seminar was held in the RV to allow art fans to interact with some featured RV artists. Charles Linder, the curator of one of the RV shows, further added to the international feeling, stating in

the RV that one goal of the show was to bring local and national artists together.

"I was looking for artists whose art was important," Linder said.

Terri Hollowell, a noted feminist artist, said the difficulty of creating a global art world is the idea that art has to be targeted to a Western audience.

"Artists have to leave their place of origin or struggle in their own community to express what they make," Hollowell said.

Besides a combination of nationalities present in the exhibition, there is also a variety of media used by the artists in the show. An interesting photochemical poem by German feminist artist Boris greets the visitors in the second RV. Made with photosensitive paper, chemicals and a curiosity for alcohol, Boris's poems are like photographs without the picture. They depend on words for the images to develop, and each picture-poem is one-of-a-kind.

Colleen Ringrose's bumperstickers combine digital imagery and nature. Their manipulation of the environment and its interplay with the RV creates stunning visuals.

Tim Brown, one half of a drawing duo, said in the RV, "We make art because we experience the world and we try to reinterpret it."

The photographic medium was represented by a few artists, notably through the work of Iranian artist Haleh Niazmi. Her piece called "'Thumbs up'" depicts a clash between Eastern traditions and Western influence.

Wally Hedrick's "Seduction," a print of a woman with a television as her head, is eye-catching and provocative.

Continued from page 1

At the reception, cooking technology was employed by artist Breit Reif. His work, "Deep Fried News," featured a deep-fried newspaper.

Reif is not the only artist at the gallery to study the human form in his other work, Deep Fried Barbie. Almost all of the pieces feature some comment on the body or its relation to the world around it. An example of this is Lexi Boeger's "*Macchina Madre*" -- Machine Mother -- which depicts a yarn bloated form with two sets of ears, whose purpose in life seems to produce offspring.

But while the body is featured in many of the works, the real triumph of the show is the combination of old art styles and new technology. Hector's "EVAphrodite" encompasses this combination -- an abstraction into a philosophical representation of shapes and forms. It's as if the painting was saying, "This is one exhibition you have to try. Hop aboard!"

The *Western Biennale of Art* and *Western RV Art Biennial* at the Natsoulas Center for the Arts in downtown Davis will run until Mar. 27. Visit natsoulas.com for more information.

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