

Thinking Big: Berkeley City College Printmakers

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit remains through April 5, 2009

Burnett Gallery

Gualala Arts will present a free exhibit, "Thinking Big: Berkeley City College Printmakers," from the opening March 14 from 5:00 p.m. through April 6. The exhibit demonstrates the newest efforts in producing digital imagery at a large scale.

The twenty artists in this group are evolving a culture and style of digital printmaking that works in four overlapping aesthetic areas: abstraction, hyper-realism, figurative art and neo-surrealism.

Several artists are branching out into new forms of digital abstraction using input sources such as layered vector designs (algorithm-based), distorted and overlapped photography, inclusion of scanned objects and patterns, and the development of new spaces derived from the lighting and modeling of 3D rendering programs.

Other artists use high-resolution photography to make "hyper-realistic" imagery of an illusionary nature, making prints that are beyond what is real because they have been so precisely edited.

Still other printmakers are exploring figurative work - adapting recognizable subject matter but 'compositing' it in digital collages: combining and mixing pictorial elements from drawings, paintings and appropriated sources (web, text, fonts, famous images) and engendering new figures in new environments.

The final group of artists is working in a "neo-surrealistic" style: borrowing a variety of inputs to create worlds that are dreamy, revelatory and expressive of imagination and levels of underlying consciousness. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of this group is that most members work across these four interrelated styles.

Another aspect of "Thinking Big: Berkeley City College Printmakers" is that images are produced on a variety of output media - and always at a large scale. Group members produce digital imagery as quilts, on

aluminum sheets, as big canvases on stretcher bars, on mylar panels, in "Cornell Boxes" and other "sculptural" environments, and even on paper. In fact paper choices range from traditional matte printing on treated watercolor and rice papers to glossy photographic finishes to use of recycled and treated papers. Several artists use their printmaking imagery in creating other work including motion graphics, web art projects, and other projected artwork.

A final component of this exhibition is the degree of reflection about art history and pertinent precedents both historic and contemporary: collagists, surrealists, conceptualists, abstractionists, traditional photography, and of course digital multimedia arts.

Participating Artists

Florian Charreard	P.G. Meier
Sean Craven	Miriam Nathan-Roberts
Jan Dove	John Paulin
Joe Doyle	Allan Pollack
Al Edgerton	Ribitch
Donna Fenstermaker	Diane Rosenblum
Phil Hall	Matthew Silverberg
Pearl Jones-Tranter	Colette Simmons
Iris Lapalme	Lisa Simonson
Susan Liroff	Kevin Tikker

Curator for this exhibit is Matthew Silverberg.

