

Calligraphy done in Grace

Christina Grace exhibits a series of lively calligraphic paintings at the Sandstone Gallery.



ROBERTA CARASSO
ART WAVES

The work is gestural and intuitive, colorful strokes of acrylic paint dance on a field of white paper or canvas. The work is emotional although minimal and Zen-like in appearance, a less is more philosophy expressed through art.

Born in Canada and trained as a sculptor, Grace exhibited her first bronze sculpture at the Montreal Expo in 1967. Through opportunities to travel to the Middle East, South America, China and the United States, she absorbed many types of art, styles of expression, and visual sensibilities. She is also influenced by Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell, Wilhelm de Kooning and Franz Klein.

The current exhibition demonstrates her sculptural bent transposed to painting. In each of the work there is a sense of three-dimensionality intuitively formed through the placement of strokes, of various sizes carved out of a white background. The solid curvilinear configurations seem to float, even rock, as shapes go back and forth forming invisible construction through line, paint, and edge.

Among Grace's more interesting work is an untitled painting of a few black marks of various sizes. The work has much potential because it seems to define the space of the image by building areas with the black lines. The simplicity of it is what is appealing.

"Joy Boy" is very different. It is composed of green, red, black, blue and yellow strokes that joyously move through out the picture plane. Grace is judicious with her placement of strokes and her formation of allusion. She does not



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA GRACE

PAINTING BY GRACE: This Christina Grace piece entitled "Gestural Painting" will be featured in an exhibit at the Sandstone Gallery in Laguna Beach.

overwork an image but includes just enough marks, colors, and space, to create a dynamic picture.

In "Corona 1," Grace captures a gold-

en shape on a field of white. In another untitled work, she creates a sense of motion and swirling as her strokes are placed in circular directions, making

the entire picture come alive. There is never a sense of inactivity. Dynamism pervades all the work.

The artist sculptural background is important to understanding her art. She was offered a mentorship with the well-known sculptor Sorel Etrog and did formal coursework at the Université de la Sorbonne and L'École du Louvre in Paris.

Upon returning to North America, Grace, studied art at the University of New Mexico and later participated in the Mentor Program at Santa Monica College of Design, Art and Architecture. This also led her to establishing and owning a sculpture / jewelry studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Certainly, Grace's brings much to her art. She has two Masters Degrees and has taken many courses, which include study at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art where her work is part of the museum's rental gallery. Her art is in many corporate and public collections, including the Swezey Institute in Santa Monica and Memory Experts International in Irvine.

Grace has exhibited at the former Elizabeth Edwards Gallery in Laguna Beach, Fresh Paint in Los Angeles, and recently at the Museum Works Galleries in Los Angeles.

Having participated in several mentoring programs, Grace has established "Guns to Brushes," an art mentoring program designed to inspire creativity in youth, and self-expression through non-violent means. The Sandstone Gallery is located at 385A North Coast Highway.

For more information, call 949-497-6775.

The Grace exhibition is one of several exhibitions celebrating the Sandstone Gallery's 25th year in Laguna Beach.

Visit the artist's website www.christinagraceart.com, or email her at Christina@christinagraceart.com.

ART BRIEFS

FACULTY EXHIBITION

Laguna College of Art & Design presents its Faculty Exhibition, an eclectic mix of artwork representing the talented instructors of working professionals on staff.

This free art exhibition begins Friday, Sept. 1 and runs through Wednesday, Sept. 27. The public is also invited to attend the artist's reception to be held in conjunction with First Thursday's Art Walk on Sept. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. The exhibition and reception will be held at the college gallery, lo-

cated at 2222 Laguna Canyon Road in Laguna Beach.

Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Complimentary parking is available.

This show will feature more than 50 pieces of two-and-three-dimensional works from accomplished faculty artists that include drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, traditional, digital and multi-media presentations. Each of the four disciplines taught at the college will be represented: Drawing & Painting, Illustration,

Feature Animation, and Graphic Design.

Visitors will experience an in-depth look at the creative genius of the college's most talented faculty who impart their expertise and knowledge in molding LCAD students into the next generation of great artist and designers.

IMAGES OF AFRICA

Diana Ferrone Gallery continues to hold an exhibition by artist Cynthia Grilli called "Images of Africa," featuring original oil paintings inspired by Grilli's recent pilgrimage to

Africa. The exhibit runs through Aug. 19. Information: 715-1842.

SMALL PAINTINGS

In the month of September, The Redfern Gallery, 1540 South Coast Highway, will exhibit small paintings by the historic California Impressionists.

Featured artists will include Granville Redmond, William Wendt, Edgar Payne, Maurice Braun, Marion K. Wachtel, Hanson Puthuff, and more. The exhibition will be an intimate view of the breathtaking

and idyllic landscapes of a pre-developed Southern California.

Small Paintings runs through September 30. Information: 497-3356 or email .

CLASS SIGN UPS

The Laguna College of Art & Design just announced sign ups are available for a stone-carving workshop, to be held Sept. 9 through Nov. 11.

The class is taught at the college, 2222 Laguna Canyon Road. The workshop is held on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.