

ART WAVES

Year in review unveils Laguna's best of 2009

It feels like the Academy Awards, recognizing the amazing art that was shown in Laguna Beach in 2009. In 2009, artists produced their best work and galleries and museums mounted

impressive exhibitions. Apologies to those who are omitted; it's space, not ability, that makes the difference. So here is a review of only some of the art we relished in 2009.



ROBERTA
CARASSO

Among the Laguna Art Museum exhibitions is "Roger Kuntz: The Shadow between Representation and Abstraction." Kuntz was a formidable artist who pinpointed the intersection of representational and abstract painting. LAM also mounted the stupendous "World of Warfare," a lollapalooza exhibition of the latest international computer graphics. As a compliment, the Laguna College of Art and Design displayed the latest and

greatest in the world of gaming. A forward thinking school, LCAD added a Game Department to prepare students who will emerge as the leaders in the gaming industry.

The Whitney Gallery moved to a great new space on Forest Avenue; Joanne Artman Gallery, beginning its second year, mounted some of the most original exhibitions including the magical art of Patrick Maisano and Rachael McCampbell, as well as a recent a spectacular Latino Art Show. The Arin Contemporary Art opened up as did SaltFineArt. Arin brings cutting edge art from within and without the area. At Arin, Laguna Beach artist Yasuko took a deep look at Disney's "Snow White," transformed to a mature Japanese woman in modern American society. SaltFineArt introduced some of the leading artists of Latin and South America. Art Cube and the latest gallery, Green Cube, are two venues where cutting-edge art is on display.

Sue Greenwood Fine Art had rave re-

views at the Los Angeles Art Fair where people from all over the world were captivated by her gallery artists. Marion Meyer Gallery exhibited work by Swiss artist Claudia Meyer whose knockout work can be called sculptural paintings or painted sculpture. The Peter Blake Gallery exhibited some of the best abstractions.

At Cove Gallery, guest sculptor and storyteller John L. Steenhoven brought the prehistoric monument Stonehenge up-to-date in a series he titles "Snouthenge. Pacific Edge Gallery exhibited Maria Bertran and Brenda Bredvik, two accomplished painters, who represent different views of Laguna Beach in an exhibition entitled "Dual Vision." Tuan, a Vietnamese sculptor, exhibited his romantic figures at the Miranda Gallery. Tuan creates figures that proclaim the elegance of the outward physical body and the inner strength of each human being.

"Artists' Views on Green," at the Wells Fargo Bank, was an artistic look

at the global environment. Sponsored by the Community Arts Projects, the exhibition brought together 18 artists who demonstrated the relationship of environment and the individual, as well as the environment and society. In a similar vein, Endangered Planet Gallery had several fine shows on the theme of environment. Mark Dubovoy, a superb photographer, showed his original images of Antarctica with breathtaking mountains of ice and his series on African animals. BC Space conceived a high-voltage, no holds barred show, "My Father's Party is Busted," where, prior to the national elections and up to the Inauguration, in 70 works of art, 40 artists commented on how the state of the nation, large government, the military, and big business affect our lives.

Lastly, there is the vitality of our festivals, Pageant of the Masters, art classes, studio visits, continuous art in public spaces, and visitors who are drawn to our amazing Laguna Beach artists. Bravo to all in 2009!

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MONOGRAPHIE

A traveling exhibition of works by European artist Claudia Meyer on display at Marion Meyer Contemporary Art.