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Thinking in Layers: Paint, Paper, Clay, Wood, Wax

Davis Art Center's upcoming *Thinking in Layers* exhibit will explore artists' use of layered materials to express ideas in two and three dimensions. The group show – featuring artists primarily from the Davis-Sacramento region – runs September 2-October 2 in the Art Center's Tsao Gallery. The ArtAbout reception is Friday, September 11, 7-9 pm, with an informal artists' talk at 7:30 pm.

Ten artists will show works in painting, printmaking, collage, assemblage, photography and encaustic. By adding or subtracting layers, these artists create visual grounds and images that reveal the thinking and intuitive insights behind the art-making process. They transform narratives and histories, mythical, cultural and personal experiences real and imagined, and movement in time and space by means of diverse materials, giving them color, shape and form.

Artists represented are Christopher Beer, painting; Jane Burnside, monotype; Hannah Hunter, collage; Diana Jahns, painting; Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk, sculpture; Sara Post, encaustic; Tomas Post, photographic collage; Alison Smith, assemblage; Jon R. Swenson, wood-turning; and Stacey Vetter, painting.

Each artist takes a different stylistic approach to the layer concept. Hannah Hunter, for example, lets her fascination with “making something out of nothing” guide her colorful collage-making, labeling it “an alchemy of the ordinary.” Similarly, Alison Smith gives new meaning to previously created art: Her playful, feminine pieces are the result of reworked and assembled art made by her grandmother and mother.

Many featured artists play with paints and prints: Jane Burnside will show monotype, a medium she has been exploring for 14 years. After making her flowing, abstract prints, she continues to complete the work with other media like ink and oil pastel. For Burnside, monotype is the discipline of letting go and the delight this brings.

Clay and wood will be represented through Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk's mixed media/ceramic bird-themed sculptures with experiments in texture through various firing temperatures. And Jon R. Swenson's segmented woodturnings emphasize movement and gesture, displaying the juxtaposition of contrasting wood grain species.

Layers curator Sara Post is a nationally exhibited artist who also teaches adult art classes at the Davis Art Center, and maintains a studio with her husband and fellow artist Tomas Post. Her encaustic or “hot wax paintings” will also be on display in the exhibit.

For more information on this exhibit, call (530) 756-4100.

What: *Thinking in Layers: Paint, Paper, Clay, Wood, Wax* with artists Christopher Beer, Jane Burnside, Hannah Hunter, Diana Jahns, Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk, Sara Post, Tomas Post, Alison Smith, Jon R. Swenson, and Stacey Vetter.

When: September 2-October 2, 2009. ArtAbout Reception is Friday, September 11, 7-9 pm with an informal artists' talk at 7:30 pm.

Where: Tsao Gallery, Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street, Davis, CA 95616.

Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am-7 pm, Friday, 9:30 am-5 pm.

Information: (530) 756-4100; www.davisartcenter.org

Photo captions: Image 1- “Gates of Heaven,” painting by Diana Jahns. Image 2- “Ark,” mixed media ceramics by Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk.

