

Galleries

Pop Art Revisited in NoHo exhibit

High School students debut their work



BY SOPHIA LOUISA LEE

NoHo Gallery LA celebrates the legacy of “popular art” (aka Pop Art that originated in the U.K. circa 1950; think Warhol’s Campbell’s soup cans and silk screens of Marilyn Monroe) with its current exhibition, *Pop Art Revisited*.

The exhibition features Angela Richard, a self-taught artist who found her niche with pop art. Originally from Canada, Richard made her way to Southern California in 1991. “I put in a lot of effort in teaching myself and keeping an open mind,” she explains. “I gravitated toward pop art naturally.” Richard immortalized Colonel Sanders in a painting that comments on today’s culture and hankering for fast food. She recently exhibited her work at Bergamont Station in Santa Monica, and will be taking her work to a gallery in New York City later this year.

Curator Daniel DeBevoise also showcases the art of Elizabeth DeVries, Gigi Aurelia and George Jacob — each exhibit a unique take on contemporary pop art. The thread that ties these three is not just art, but blood as well. This is the first exhibit they share as mother, daughter and son.

DeVries has only painted for three years, but raised her children to appreciate the beauty of art. Her paintings of flowers are reminiscent of Georgia O’Keefe’s work. DeVries explains how she uses flowers as her subjects, “A flower reaches for the light. Are we not doing the same? We are all one.” It is this sense of spirituality she passed on to her offspring in their approach to art. Although Aurelia and Jacob’s styles are completely different from their mother’s, their work still captures the same inner essence of beauty.

Pop Art Revisited provides an exclusive opportunity for a group of high school seniors from the Cleveland Humanities Magnet School in Reseda. This semester, each student was assigned to



(Top) Angela Richard with painting. (Above) Elizabeth DeVries with Gigi Aurelia and George Jacob.

complete an art project that dealt with pop culture and nine students were selected to include their work in this exhibit. One student, Emily Chen, even sold her piece — an oversize Coach bag. The students worked under the instruction of Melanie Miller, who is a teacher and an artist as well.

This exhibit marks the first time these students (who are currently preparing for AP exams and making plans for college) have had the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in a professional gallery. “They are overwhelmed because it happened so quickly. They are thrilled,” shares Miller, who is very proud of her students — Diana Dominguez, Emily Chen, Emily Goldstein, Erin Reeves, Leah McCloskey, Leslie Lee, Nathalie Nunez, Orly Sibony, and Owen Delgado. ✨

Pop Art Revisited runs through May 27 and also includes the works of Melissa Christina, Muriel Barrett, Francesco Modigo, David C. DeBevoise, Trisha Gum, Brian Anderson, and Emy Chandra. The gallery will be open for the NoHo Arts Festival, which will be held May 20-21, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood. For more information, go to www.nohoarts-district.com, or the gallery’s website at www.nohogalleryla.com.

Sophia Louisa Lee is an artist living in Studio City. She will also be part of the NoHo Arts Festival. For more information, visit her website at www.sophialouisa.com.