

NoHo Gallery LA Presents Second Show

"American Roots" gathers no moss



LEFT TO RIGHT: THOROUGHbred STICK BY JACK LORENZ; SUMMER BY ARIEL VARGASSAL; FOUR SEASONS BY LIANA GOROIAN

By Carina Walker

NoHo Gallery LA, housed in North Hollywood's historic Lankershim Arts Center, celebrated its second gallery show with an artists' reception last week-end for "American Roots."

Photographers, painters, sculptors and weavers showcased their original work - and supported a local charity in the process, with a percentage of proceeds donated to Hands for Hope, an after school enrichment program for underprivileged kids.

The work of artist "Stick Boy," formerly known as Jack Lorenz, generously reflected this month's theme. His figurative sculptures are made from recycled tree branches and "roots," some whimsical, some - like a full sized horse - intricate and complex.

With forty million tons of green waste each year, Lorenz says with his art he is "doing [his] small share." Lorenz, who uses single pieces of bark, and sometimes even 'Google' for inspiration, says, "I like to give plants an afterlife."

Ariel Vargassal, a more traditional artist, says he believes his vibrant acrylic

paintings send multiple messages to its viewer. "Art is a communication system. The sender being the artist, the message being the painting and the receiver is the person who views it. Art has to be magical. It has to be about something your eyes and mind won't perceive."

One of Vargassal's paintings, which at first glance appears to be a woman standing in the wind, actually contains hidden faces in the drapery. Another painting, which at first appears to be a woman lounging on a summer day, contains tree leaves embracing one another. Vargassal, who purposely puts these subliminal messages in his artwork to get the viewer to look deeper into his pieces, hopes the latter conjures feelings of eroticism.

Another featured artist, Liana Goroian credits music as her inspiration. "I do my sketches while listening to music" she explains. Goroian's large, intricately woven tapestry of a woman surrounded by the four seasons contained close to 150 colors of wool. It was the most expensive piece at the gallery, and one of the most popular. The work took her four months to complete and hung next to one of her watercolor and oil paintings, which, like all her pieces,



contained women moving to rhythm, moving with the music.

Scott Detweiler added to the festivities with his guitar solos, while the sizable crowd enjoyed snacks and drinks. Following the American Roots show, which will be on display until July 28, is a celebration of all art entitled "Arts Come Alive," featuring dance and music through art.

The gallery, a division of NoHo Communications Group, opened its doors in mid-May to an array of artists, mediums and styles. Group President Nancy Bianconi said that with twenty-three theaters and a only a few art galleries in the area, she hopes that this gallery will be an integral part of bringing the community together and supporting NoHo's flourishing arts district.

"Since there are only a few galleries in NoHo, we are hoping more will move into the district and help it to prosper," said Bianconi.

Judging by the reception's attendance at American Roots, NoHo is well on its way to becoming a cultural hub in LA.

American Roots is on display through July 28. Further information on the gallery and future shows can be found at www.nohogalleryla.com, NoHo Gallery LA, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, 818-761-7784.

Carina Walker is an incoming senior at Campbell Hall and an intern for the Sun papers.

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