

Galleries

Celebrations of Life and Renewal

NoHo Gallery rings in the new year

BY LEANNA CHASE

As a new year approaches, NoHo Gallery LA presents *New Beginnings*, a show of art celebrating life and renewal. The work of twelve artists, many new to the Los Angeles art community, hangs in the renovated space of the Lankershim Arts Center, a historic building in the emerging NoHo Arts District. While standing on original 1939 tile, the viewer can appreciate the contemporary and traditional images of the show that festively opened on December 14.

Gallery Director Daniel DeBevoise has carefully selected pieces from each artist to create a show with visual integrity amidst the diversity of work displayed. From each vantage point in the gallery space, color and form draw the eye from artist to artist.

Featured artist Francesco Modigo recently arrived in Los Angeles from Italy. His work has shown internationally, with *New Beginnings* being the first showing of his work in the Los Angeles area. Although inspired in boyhood by a Modigliani exhibit viewed with his father, he began his painting career many years later in 1992. His works are reflective of this inspiration, detailing essential elements of minimal line and color. Appearing on many collectors' lists of upcoming artists, Modigo now lives and works in the Los Angeles area.

The work of Oakland artist Sue Matthews, guest artist in the show, provides a spirited contrast. Her lively and colorful images reflect the music and dance of Havana street life. As an accomplished con-

ga musician in her own right, the work is inspired by the time she spent in Cuba studying percussion. Her figures seem to leap off the canvas with movement and aliveness.

A bit quieter and more traditional, yet no less alive, is the work of Irena Jablonski. The richness of her forms does not belie her early engineering career. Jablonski began her painting in earnest nine years ago and now shows in local galleries and guild shows. Her work has also been published by *International Artist* magazine.

Lillian Silverstone provides colorful depictions ranging from the footlights of the show stage to the introspection and solitude of the rehearsal hall. Her work portrays a realism that reflects the human experience. *New Beginnings* is the first showing of her work since her college years capturing the evolution of her style as an artist.

Use of color and darkness are key to Mel Blatt's portrayal of the human figure in several selected paintings. Though these pieces are dominant in the *New Beginnings* offerings, they contrast sharply with Blatt's colorful study of angels and other forms also shown.

The show also includes photographic



Artist Francesco Modigo stands before his painting, *Mona Lisa*, at the reception.

works by Jeff Alu and Daniel DeBevoise as well as the photo-esque images created by Leon Jiminez. Abstract pieces in multimedia by Steve Harris and Jennifer Buttell add balance, as do figure drawings of Jack Lorenz and Seattle artist Crystal Sea.

Whether to take in a rich art event, to experience the renovated historical building in which the gallery is housed, or to do some last minute holiday shopping at the gallery and its boutique of one-of-a-kind rare object jewelry, fine wood pieces, or original prints, the NoHo Gallery LA can be a quiet respite from the frenzied holiday season. ✨

New Beginnings will hang until January 21, 2006. The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday 2 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. NoHo Gallery LA is located at 5108 Lankershim Boulevard in the NoHo Arts District.

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