



Art of Women! at the NoHo Gallery L.A.

NoHo Gallery L.A. showcases art by women about women.

By: [Marc Howard](#)

Femininity has exploded inside the NoHo Gallery L.A. It is bursting from the canvases on the walls, flooding the gallery. It permeates the atmosphere like a sound or scent.

The gallery will acknowledge Women's History Month with an exhibition called "Woman!," a varied collection of artistic representations of the human female created mostly by women.

"Women are a common subject of art," said gallery director Dan DeBevoise. "We decided that for this show we would put women in the driver's seat."

Among the attractive works in the exhibit, Valley College art major Anji Craun's oil paintings stand out. In "Moonstruck" a woman's beautiful blue and black face nearly fills the frame. There is a searing rage living within the painting and in the woman's intense glare; a lone teardrop trickles from her eye.

In "Lisa" a woman's flesh is rendered in pinkish red; the womanly curves of her body seem to burst out from the canvas. She is outlined by a mysterious white glow; there is an unseen light shining. Her soft blue hair flows out in billowing curly locks flooding the rest of the frame.

"I don't try to paint with a particular intent of sending a message," Craun says. "I try to communicate an aura ... the work in this series celebrates the beauty and complexity of the female."

Painter and sculptress Alisa Gabrielle's vision has been severely blurred for most of her adult life due to Keratoconus. In 2001, she received a corneal transplant and she now has 20/40 vision in her right eye. She's found ways to continue working despite her limited vision. Her works include surreal charcoal drawings she calls "Psychic Sketches," in which images such as women, babies, hands, eyes, hair and bodies meld together in a sort of dream-like or hallucinogenic way.

In "Dreamer" a woman sleeps nude and the peaceful look on her face suggests that she sleeps in contentedness, but her fiery red skin suggests the repose is in anger or some other state of arousal.

Her portrait of a man and woman, "Body and Soul," represents two inner selves; two souls or spirits. It shows what one might see of two people in the absence of their physical forms.

Vera Akotuah's background in fashion manifests itself in the attitude conveyed by the women in her black and white charcoal drawings. She began working on the drawings in the show when she was eight months pregnant.

"They say a woman can be very creative during pregnancy and I found this to be true ... I had a huge belly and found it hard walking outside a lot, so I just decided to pick up some charcoal and start drawing," Akotuah said.

The exhibit will be showing through April 1. Admission is free. The artist reception will be held on Wednesday, March 8 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; women and men, lovers of art and of women are encouraged to attend.