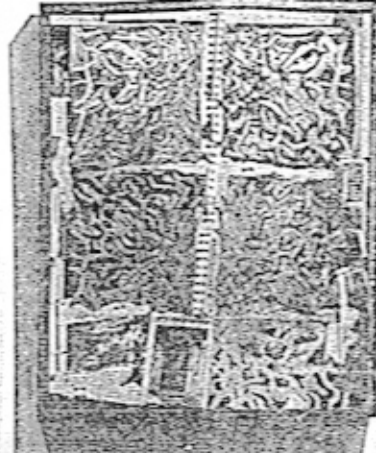
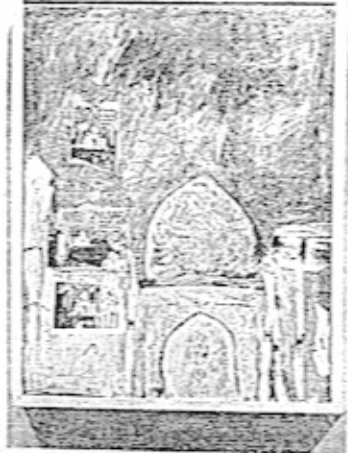


'Taj', right, by
Billie
Bourgeois,
and part of the
installation 'It's
the Story of
the Door',
below, by
Maria Medina.



Oculus Opening

Gallery's first show impressive

BY ANNE PRICE
Advocate arts critic

Oculus Gallery opens a whole new world for downtown Baton Rouge — the world of contemporary art.

The expansive galleries, with high ceilings and pristine white walls, make a perfect setting and space permits installations and sculpture as well as two-dimensional pieces without any stress or crowding.

The Opening, a remarkable first exhibition on view through Sunday, Oct. 25, sets the tone for a bright future.

The new facility is not only an exciting omen for the city's art community, but an example of the kind of private development that will make dreams of a revitalized downtown come true.

Response to the national competition that resulted in the first show is exciting in itself. Juror Susan E. Ryan, LSU assistant professor of art and a contemporary art special-

ist, screened hundreds of entries from some 25 states and Canada to create a show that represents trends and artistic thought on a broad scale. Rosalie Benetiz, an LSU graduate student, was curator for the exhibit.

New York City, Boston, British Columbia, Dallas, Denver, Rhode Island — a glance at hometowns of the artists proves this is truly a national show.

Seven Baton Rouge artists, and 11 from other parts of the state are represented.

Innovation is seen side-by-side with traditional work. The first place award went to one of the former, a video installation created by New Orleans artist Jeff Prentice.

The variety is stimulating and the quality is good. The show is a fine beginning for an ambitious project that is already breathing new life to one block on Third Street.

"Communion" stacks 12 small video screens vertically, and top to bottom, people open mouths to fill them with water, turn to drain the water down to the next open mouth, forming kind of a human waterfall. It's not my cup of tea, or water, but it's fascinating

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Oculus

Continued from Page 3

and fun, and definitely a '90s kind of creativity.

One of the Baton Rouge artists is also in the winner's circle. Michael Seymour, an Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge staffer, placed third with his big, expansive and extroverted abstract painting.

"Snake" is its title, and if there's any doubt, the name is spelled out in foot-high letters at the lower right section of the canvas. Despite the subject (which is sufficiently abstracted to make the work appealing, even to snake haters) it's a wonderfully cheerful work, blessed with great swirls of vivid color and a composition that captures eye and mind.

Second place went to another installation, this one a room-sized and dynamic exploration of the problem of child abuse. It's the work of Maria Medina of Seattle, Wash., and she combines somber symbolic paintings with many objects, including the

door of the title, "It's the Story of the Door," painted green and lettered with a narrative of abuse.

This is serious art with strong purpose, and executed with skill and artistry.

There is much more to excite comment and thought and please the viewer. Another Baton Rougean, Billie

Bourgeois, is represented by a trio of fascinating mixed media paintings, her dramatic response to a recent visit to India as guests of old friends. She captures much of the unique flavor of the country as seen through Western eyes and the work reflects her reaction as well as the color and atmosphere of the place.

"The Taj" incorporates photographs, and the painting surface has great detail achieved by scratched designs on layers

of paint revealing colors beneath. All three paintings have scraps of letters exchanged between the American and Indian families incorporated in the design.

A pair of stunning photographs with subtle pastel coloring the backgrounds is the work of Paul Manet Francis of Orleans sculptor Jimmy Descant has two "Rocket Ships," one of which, if turned on, jiggles and jangles as though it's about to take off. Another New Orleans artist, Sharon Jacques, is represented by two symbolic installations and David Ekldahl of St. Paul, Minn., is showing a pair of small tribal sculptures.

The variety is stimulating and the quality is good. The show is a fine beginning for an ambitious project that is already breathing new life to one block on Third Street.

The exhibit is free and open to the public 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Houston, Texas.

These are just examples from the wide-ranging show, which has enough variety and punch to attract almost any taste. Maria Coleletis of Richmond, British Columbia, is showing a 6-foot tall "Paper Doll," a huge dress-shaped Cibachrome print complete with tabs to affix it to the doll, and outlined with black dashes for cut-out lines.

For those who like action, New Orleans artist Jimmy Descant has two "Rocket Ships," one of which, if turned on, jiggles and jangles as though it's about to take off. Another New Orleans artist, Sharon Jacques, is represented by two symbolic installations and David Ekldahl of St. Paul, Minn., is showing a pair of small tribal sculptures.

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Mobile.

The prints picture a bowed head, covered with hands which provide the focus of the composition.

Maho Kino's expressive etching, "Asian Innocence," won one of two honorable mention awards.

The other went to France V. Thomas for "Family Portraits," a piece combining a line of human figures with cone forms.

Kino is from Brooklyn, N.Y., Thomas from

This Week

Continued from Page 3

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Blues in the Schools lecture performance by Deacon John Moore, 12:45 p.m., Zachary High School, 4101 Church St., Zachary, 344-8538.

Gloria Duplex, 7:30 p.m., Claude L. Shaver Theatre, Music and Dramatic Arts Building, LSU, presented by Swine Palace Productions. Admission charged, 388-3527.

Poetry Slam Competition, 7:30 p.m., M's Fine and Mellow Cafe.

SLU Fanfare: Elizabeth Futral, soprano, 7:30 p.m., Portie Music Building

6:06

Politically Incorrect Louisiana Style, 8 p.m., The Cabaret Theatre in Village Square Shopping Center on College Drive. An impromptu show hosted by Kevin Meeks and starring Gus and Leigh Ann Weill and Pat Simon, \$8, 927-4747.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Blues in the Schools lecture performance by Deacon John Moore, 1 p.m., Tara High School, 9002 Whitehall Ave. 344-8538.

SLU Fanfare: Triangle Baroque Ensemble, 2 p.m., Portie Music Building Auditorium, Hammond, Free.

Annie, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saenger Theatre, New Orleans, starring Sally Struthers as Miss Hannigan. Admission charged, (504) 522-5555.

Arsenic and Old Lace, 7 p.m., Greer Center for the Performing Arts, Episcopal School, 3200 Woodland Ridge Blvd., presented by Episcopal's Upper School students. \$4 in advance, \$6 at the door, 753-3180.

Gloria Duplex, 7:30 p.m., Claude L. Shaver Theatre, Music and Dramatic Arts Building, 344-8538.

Dancing at Lughnasa, 8 p.m., Burke Theatre, USL campus, Lafayette, (318) 482-6357.

Incorruptible, 8 p.m., Abbey Players, Abbeville, \$9, (318) 893-2442.

Poetry Night, 9 p.m., Insminecochok/Burn Galleries, 803 Main St., 383-5150.

Friday, Oct. 9

Bach Lunch, 11:45 a.m., grounds of the Lafayette Natural History Museum, 637 Girard Park Drive. Music by Les Freres Michot.

Blues in the Schools lecture performance by Alvin Battiste, 12:30 p.m., Istrouma High School, 3720 Winbourne Ave. 344-8538.

Sinfonietta Solo Serdes, 4 p.m., St. James Place. Varied program.

Triangle Baroque, Guest Early Music Ensemble, 6 p.m., LSU School of Music Recital Hall, 388-3261.

Arsenic and Old Lace, 7 p.m., Greer Center for the Performing Arts, Episcopal School, 3200 Woodland Ridge Blvd., presented by Episcopal's Upper School students. Admission charged, 753-3180.

Auditorium, Hammond. Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$8 seniors, SLU faculty and staff, all students.

SLU Fanfare: Southeastern Theatre presents Private Eyes, 7:30 p.m., Vonnie Borden Theatre, Hammond. Tickets: \$5 reserved, \$3 seniors/faculty/staff, SLU students free.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Blues in the Schools lecture performance by Deacon John Moore, 12:45 p.m., Zachary High School, 4101 Church St., Zachary, 344-8538.

Gloria Duplex, 7:30 p.m., Claude L. Shaver Theatre, Music and Dramatic Arts Building, LSU, presented by Swine Palace Productions. Admission charged, 388-3527.

SLU Fanfare: Southeastern Theatre presents Private Eyes, 7:30 p.m., Vonnie Borden Theatre, Hammond. Admission charged, but free for SLU students.

SLU Fanfare: Moscow Piano Trio, 7:30 p.m., Portie Music Building Auditorium, Hammond. Tickets: \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors, \$5 SLU Faculty & Staff, all students.

Annie, 7:30 p.m., Saenger Theatre, Orleans, starring Sally Struthers as Hannigan. Admission charged, (504) 555-5555.

Eddie Daniels, guest clarinetist with the LSU Orchestra, 8 p.m., Union Theater, part of the new "Performing Arts Presents" Series. \$6, students, faculty/staff, and \$15, general public.

Into the Woods, 8 p.m., Baton Rouge Little Theater, 7155 Florida Blvd. (B. Marche Mall). Admission charged, (504) 696-6996.

Coming Apart, 8 p.m., The Cabaret Theatre, Village Square Shopping Center on College Drive. 927-4747.

Dancing at Lughnasa, 8 p.m., Burke Theatre, USL campus, Lafayette, (318) 482-6357.

Incorruptible, 8 p.m., Abbey Play Abbeville, \$9, (318) 893-2442.

Rhinoceros, Lower Depths Theatre Loyola University, New Orleans, (504) 861-5888.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Gloria Duplex, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Claude L. Shaver Theatre, Music and Dramatic Arts Building, 344-8538.

United Artists Theatres logo with text: UNITED ARTISTS Theatres. A national network of theatres. All 100+ theatres are now fully computerized. 800-541-1111. 216-0050. SUBSCRIBE NOW.



May 7, 2003

RE: Recommendation for Whatisart – Whatissound

To Whom It May Concern:

Lake Washington Technical College's arts and lecture series, *LWTC Live!*, contacted Whatisart – Whatissound in the summer of 2002 to inquire about putting on an event at our college. All of the artists and staff associated with the collective were enthusiastic and supportive of the idea and preparation began for an exhibition, workshops and presentation in April 2003.

Throughout the planning and presentation of this project, we found Maria Medina and her fellow artists to be particularly interested in enhancing the educational goals of *LWTC Live!* and the college. They were excited to work with faculty and students and contribute their dynamic energy to our hands-on learning environment. In addition, Maria and the other artists involved in the presentation were extremely professional, prompt in returning phone calls and email, responsive and flexible.

Whatisart – Whatissound shared a fresh perspective on art, music and technology with the staff, faculty and students of Lake Washington Technical College. Their two-week exhibition, interactive workshops and presentation to the campus this April reached hundreds of students and community members, adding a vibrant element to their educational experience. I would highly recommend Whatisart – Whatissound as a partner in arts education to other colleges and schools and will continue to support them.

If you have any questions about the *LWTC Live!* project with Whatisart – Whatissound, please do not hesitate to contact me at (425) 739-8314 or by email at molly.brown@lwtc.edu.

Sincerely,

Molly Brown
Coordinator of Student Programs