

'Open Studio' Gives Public Unique Access to Artists

By Johnas de Leon
Staff Writer

Donna Arrillaga sat on the corner entrance to the Adobe Arts Center in Castro Valley, her work properly set up on display with small price tags of various amounts. She had just sold her favorite abstract painting, which she described as a free-form circular piece called "Bubbles." Though she would miss the painting, Arrillaga said she was just happy to be participating in the 12th annual Open Arts Studios Tour.

For more than a decade, the Open Arts Studio has been an opportunity for many artists in the Hayward area to showcase their work. This year's event took place on Saturday and Sunday, and allowed people to visit artists in their own surroundings to get a feel for their work in different media, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, glass and jewelry.

Supported by the Hayward Arts Council, local artists exhibited their talents in their own studios or workspaces. Eighteen sites were listed on the tour map with locations in San Leandro, Castro Valley and Hayward. While some exhibits remained in galler-



Artistic Hospitality: Clarice Roberts (left) shows her paintings to visitors at her home in Hayward.

Photo/ Johnas de Leon

ies, most of the works were in the homes of the artists themselves.

Clarice McCarthy, a visitor to the center and an artist herself, strolled through the center with a friend to look through the various paintings and handmade jewelry.

"I love the atmosphere here. We are so blessed in this area with Hayward-supported things, so it's really

an art community that you don't find very often," said McCarthy.

At the Sun Gallery in Hayward, Cal State East Bay alumna Barbara Berner displayed her paintings while her visiting son browsed through easels of her work.

"I like the comments from different people. Some people give me an idea on maybe what I could do next time. (I like) their suggestions that kind of improve the composition or the subject matter that I could do in the future," Berner said.

Other artists at the Sun Gallery included James Vickery, a first-time participant in the tour. Vickery illustrated his talent for drawing and painting with his parade of pieces of his unique interpretation of angelic women. Marlo Duffy, a second-time participant, showed off a recent piece which she said took her about eight to ten hours a day for three months. The piece,

called "Proper Schooling," is a three-dimensional painting that simulates a school of fish on the ocean floor.

"This exposes my work to more people than any of the other shows that I do all year round. I'm usually in different venues through the art association — This gets my whole body of work out for the public to see. That's why this is the best show of the year for me," Duffy said.

Clarice Roberts, along with Jane Tsushima, showcased her porcelain at her home. Roberts allowed visitors to step into her domicile in Hayward to see the vast number of paintings that covered her walls. One of the paintings, "Terraces in Nepal," hung in her upstairs studio and was featured in Watercolor magazine. Roberts, a world-traveling artist, said she had participated in the Open Arts Studio Tour for years.

"People can see what it's like for your work and get a feeling for what you do because you can't do a demonstration. And so you can talk about how you work a little bit and show examples. I think that's a value to people, that they can understand it better," Roberts said.

Susan Sarti, president of A.R.T. Inc, an arts organization in Castro Valley, and first-time participant in the Open Studio Tour, also showed off her abstract paintings and talked about her experience.

"I've enjoyed it a lot. Next year, I would like to not participate and go out to the other studios. It's been fun. There's been a great mix of people coming through on both days, and I've gotten to meet some artists that I didn't know before," Sarti said.

For more information on the Hayward Arts Council, visit www.haywardarts.org.

'Performance Fusion 2005' Showcases Night of Improv



How do I love thee: Ray (Brian Turner) performs in "Springtime," part of the CSUEB performance Fusion.

Photo/ Kira Miller

By Kira Miller
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay's department of Theatre and Dance held its May program last weekend in the Studio Theatre.

"Performance Fusion 2005," featuring advanced students from the department, included acting, dancing and improv.

The event was a culmination of hard work and long planning, according to CSUEB senior Robert Mueller.

"We have a director who helps the senior directors; we figure out what we're going to do in the beginning and throughout the year," Mueller said.

Mueller directed the David Ives piece, "Variations on the Death of Trotsky." The show detailed Trotsky, a revolutionary leader from Russia, on the night of his death on Aug. 20, 1940. Trotsky (Sean Roberts), was stabbed in the head with a pick ax, followed by his wife (Rachel Throesch), who entered with an encyclopedia from the year 2005, which told about Trotsky's death.

During the performance, several variations of how Trotsky died were depicted, including one in which a worker of his, named Ramon, was in love with Trotsky's wife, so he killed him. Not only was this piece historical, but also comedic, with the audience laughing throughout.

"The whole time, (Trotsky) walks around with a pick ax," Mueller said. "He dies many times."

Two pieces were very emotional for the actors as well as the audience. "Springtime" told a story of love and betrayal, focusing on two gay women named Rainbow and Greta, played by Julie Brown and Monica Santiago, respectively. Greta is sick and has to stay at home, and because Rainbow loves her so much, she works with Ray (Brian Turner) who Greta hates.

The second piece was called "The International Stud" and featured Arnold (Brian Calhoun), a cross-dresser, who deals with life's difficulties and finds the love of his life, Ed (Hiroki Saito). The two meet and fall for each other, but stress gets the better of Ed, who cannot come to terms with his sexuality. He later finds a woman, takes her to meet his parents, and falls in love.

Later, an improv group picked out random words for the audience to use in acting out different scenes. For example, the audience was asked for a type of language, as well as a conversation topic. The two words chosen were "Oompa Loompa" and "bus driver." Rob Mueller played an Oompa Loompa applying for a bus driver position and the interpreter (Jesse Miller), translated to the interviewer (Miriam Dorsett) from Oompa Loompa to English.

The show also featured Carlie High as she danced to a Courtney Love song, showing feelings of anger and sadness. "Walking Through the Shadows," featured music from Kanye West and Ani Di Franco, featured High, Alexis Spinnato, Ashley Spinato and Sarita Trujillo, in a dance production symbolizing their strength and independence as women.

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