

Emerging Bay Area Artist Seeks Truth in Art

By Benjamin Potter
Staff Writer

Pablo Picasso once said, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."

Picasso through his art impelled his audience to look beyond the obvious whether they were looking into a mirror or studying a person they have never met.

These questions can be answered by examining emerging Bay Area artist Andrew Schreijer, who creates truths in his paintings so the amiable admirer can realize not only truths about themselves, but about the artist who inspired them.

Schreijer says he wants the unbiased spectator to be inspired, honest and show truth in themselves.

His artistic beginnings come from a second-grade art folder made up of folded-over binder paper, including a drawing of his dad with the entry, "this is my dad happy."

Schreijer's early inspirations were from cartoon characters, like Bugs Bunny, and later comic books. He was also inspired by late artist Bob Ross, who became famous for his television art show on KQED and his little sayings, like "happy trees."

"I could draw things that get in people's heads a bit," Schreijer said of his early work, adding that his work progressed as he went into his high school years.

This notion of getting into viewers' heads is evident with a high school drawing of the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski. The drawing is of Kaczynski's head with dynamite and time clocks protruding from his cranium like a mad scientist's hair style. As morbid as it may seem, Schreijer said the drawing represents an artist's youthful talent and a historical point in time when Kaczynski was arrested for terrorism.

As Schreijer progressed into his art form, he became conscious that art was an outlet and avenue of introspection for himself. He found that his paintings had taken on an audience, and with his new viewers he determined another perspective. With his strong foundation, he said he could focus on his art and relate his work to an audience simply by



The Core: Acrylic on canvas by Andrew Schreijer.

Photo/ Courtesy

being himself.

He said that his paintings are not emotions specific to himself, but instead general to the perception of the audience.

"You don't have to relate with all of the paintings; as long as you relate with one, you could relate with me," said Schreijer, who posts his art on his MySpace page.

Schreijer's paintings are in the medium of acrylic and canvas and include a lot of blue, green and dark red. He likes to use washed-out colors to create a philosophical mood as one would be in the midst of a deep thought.

Much of his thoughts are emphasized by the music he listens to, as his father, Gerard, is an accomplished percussionist. His musical genes are used to inspire him to create his own art. He said his love for different genres of music is what elevates his muse.

"I just pull up my seat, turn on my music, smoke a cig and stare at the canvas," he said.

"House of Lucky" Fills Berkeley Pizzeria

By Kenneth Montfort
Staff Writer

The one-man show "House of Lucky," returned to La Val's Subterranean Theatre last weekend to knock its audience's socks off with solo performer, Frank Wortham.

Impact Theatre put on the show, which was performed Friday and Saturday in Berkeley.

"It's essentially a love song to San Francisco," said Wortham, the writer, performer and sound designer for the play. "I wanted to give back to the community, and that's what this (play) is."

I remember the janitor coming up to me and telling me I had such nerve, and I thought it was a compliment

Frank Wortham

"House of Lucky" is the story of 20-something poet Harper Jones, who resides for most of his life in San Francisco. Jones leads a fairly dead-end life working in a Green-Tortoise-like bus travel agency. He is also on the fritz with an ex-girlfriend and has a best friend who tries to commit suicide.

The story presents a wide variety of wit and humor to the audience as Wortham pulls out the works portraying 17 different characters.

Wortham moved from New York to San Francisco in 1999, where he fell in love with the city.

Wortham worked with Cal State East Bay professor of theatre Melissa Hillman, who has been teaching at CSUEB for almost five years.

"We were still really passionate about theatre, and the possibility

of communicating that to a younger audience," Wortham said.

The original showing of his performance was staged at the Berkeley Senior Center in 1998.

"I remember the janitor coming up to me and telling me I had such nerve, and I thought it was a compliment," Wortham said.

The show developed in 1998

with the artistic director at the time, Josh Costello. Wortham met with Hillman to discuss the staging of the show.

"Melissa has a history of taking artists who need encouragement and encouraging them," Wortham said. "(She) continues to do that with every artist that passes through Impact's doors."

Hillman has directed other plays on campus, including "Performance Fusion" and the recently produced "Fools!" by Neil Simon.

The performance continues every Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. until Aug. 26. Tickets for "House of Lucky" are \$15 general admission and \$10 students, seniors and TBA members.

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12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05

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❖ **Cars (G)**
11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:50

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