

## ART

## Art Sale Tonight

KPBS Auction  
Has Winners

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Auctions are places where, if you're not careful, you'll get something for nodding. That isn't likely to happen at tonight's KPBS "Portfolio Collection of Fine Arts" auction, essentially because you'll be in your living room, your body movements neither scrutinized nor misinterpreted.

On view on Channel 15 tonight, from 6 p.m. to midnight, are works by 37 accomplished, generous San Diego artists, the majority of whom created these works for the primary purpose of raising funds to benefit San Diego public broadcasting.

Jurors for this year's exhibition were Ida K. Rigby, professor of art history and co-chairman of San Diego State University's Department of Art, and Mary Livingston Beebe, director of UCSD's Sculpture Collection. (The third juror, Ronald Hickman, until recently director of the Phoenix Art Museum and currently a fine arts consultant to art museums, at the last minute couldn't get here from Phoenix.)

Artists whose work was judged: Stephen Beck-von-Peccoz, Jack Boyd, Robert Bradford, Robin Bright, John Brodie, Viki Cole, Pauline Eaton, John F. Edwards, Arline Fisch, Tom Frankovitch, Faiya Fredman, Ethel Greene, Daryl Groover, Margot Gross, Gerrit Greve, Suda House, Anne Inman, Ellen Irvine, Jay Johnson, Donna de Kindig, Nancy Kittredge, Carole Laventhol, Donna Leavitt, Christopher Lee, Paul Matthei, Laurel Most, Joe Nyiri, Michael Pfulb, Ed Pieters, Paul Polson, John Rogers, Lynn Schuette, Kay Schwartz, Richard Sigmund, Dorothy Stratton, Mario Uribe, Michael Wheelden, Walter Wojtyla and David Zapf.

The judging was "blind," in that donor forms were face-down and, although Rigby, thoroughly knowledgeable about the San Diego art scene, could probably recognize the work of many artists at a thousand paces, Beebe, new to the area, could not. The jurors selected as winners Paula Matthei's handmade paper sculpture, "Passage to San Diego"; Michael Pfulb's "Neon Construction Sculpture No. 581"; and Walter Wojtyla's oil on canvas, "Jude in the Shower With Striped Towel." The winners, their work, goals and philosophies, will be featured in a 30-minute KPBS film, "Artists in Residence."

The judges also singled out two runners up: Lynn Schuette for her 5-foot-by-6-foot acrylic, "Shiroto," and Viki Cole, whose multimedia work is titled "When It Comes to Small Change, Baby, the Buck Stops Here."

Matthei's cast-paper sculpture resembles a picture frame into which one visually steps to view an assemblage of painted white rattan as well as textural, hand-molded, dimensional white paper.

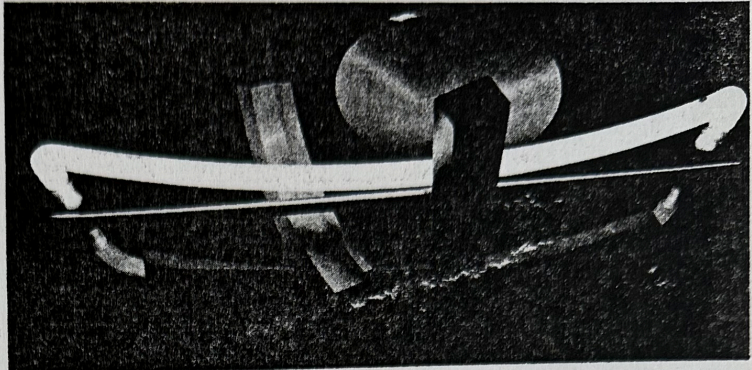
Pfulb's neon construction, with its pearl luster and dark, hot-pink colors reflects light and typifies today's hi-tech art.

Wojtyla's pink nude "severed" by layers of confetti-like water tumbling out of a shower head, is a work of almost feverish energy and, in the artist's own words, "a combination of expressionism and classical abstraction, a symbolic depiction of the affirmation of life, the female form, large and fuzzy, capable as a potential life-giving source; the cascading streams of water, essential for the existence of life. The figure stands upright, emerging from the bath as a modern Venus reborn." Wojtyla's nude is reminiscent of de Koonig's "Woman" series, full of painterly turbulence.

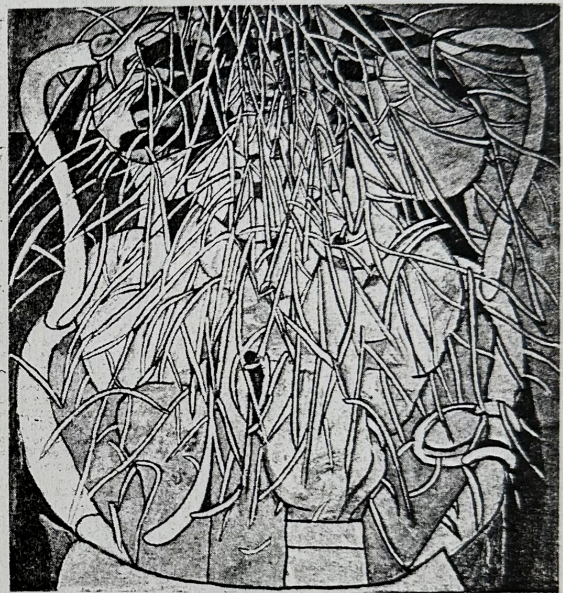
Viki Cole's multimedia work on canvas, consisting essentially of 54 \$1 bills sandwiched between two pieces of plexiglass and surrounded by colorful washes of paint and thick-brushed white X's with the rows of dollar bills "interrupted" by the printed comment "There will be substantial penalties for early withdrawal," is imaginative and witty. Cole's titles, as evidenced by her recent SDMA show, are clever enough for a Johnny Carson monologue.

Lynn Schuette's big abstract acrylic on canvas, titled "Shiroto," with its superb color contrasts and subtle expressiveness of touch, is a work of high refinement.

Exactingly works are Jack Boyd's copper relief sculpture, measuring 4 feet by 2 feet, resembling a 21st century



Michael Pfulb's neon construction sculpture, above, and Walter Wojtyla's oil on canvas, "Nude in the Shower With Striped Towel," right, were among winners of the ninth annual KPBS "Portfolio Collection of Fine Art." The works will be offered for sale tonight during a fund-raising auction for Channel 15.



knight's shield, and Stephen Beck-von-Peccoz's pearl-white, motor-driven wall sculpture, a revolving disc representing the sun, floating behind a Zia symbol, which also represents the sun. (The winning bid on this work also gets the services of the artist, who will install the work within a 50-mile radius of his Sorrento Valley studio.)

Some representational works are Suda House's color print of a section of a dining room table; Donna Leavitt's still life, a colored-pencil drawing of two pewter forks, three papaya halves and a section of a colorful cloth; Kay Schwartz's refined colored-pencil drawing, "Monuments de Paris," being a cherry torte, a canceled theater ticket and a single streamer of confetti; Mario Uribe's eight-color serigraph "1958 T-Bird" and Michael Wheelden's large (72-inch-by-96-inch) acrylic on canvas, "Downtown," depicting youth, naked to the waist, standing in the entrance way of a closed building amid strong contrasts of sunlight and shadow.

An atmospheric, impressionistic work preserving the evanescent and transient effects of sunlight and shadow is Ellen Irvine's radically cropped composition, "Reflections in Water." On the other hand, Donna de Kindig's serigraph, "View From Island II," is essentially monochromatic, offering the sensation of endless horizons, while Pauline Eaton's abstract watercolor, "Weave a Magic Memory," utilizes the color of the southwestern deserts, which emphasize her negative white space.

Works of technical expertise are Carol Laventhol's "Baklavah for a Star," consecutive thin washes of acrylic paint folded to induce cracking, creating a certain ten-

sion, and Faiya Fredman's "Negative Line," sand adhered to canvas. This disciplined work with a single tonality requires intense concentration and exudes an almost oriental mysticism.

Several large, exuberant abstract-impressionistic works will be auctioned, among them Margot Gross' "Sam II," Robert Bradford's "Transports of Delight" and Anne Inman's "Stepping Stones," unconstrained expressions of lush colors and spontaneous emotions.

Space does not allow coverage of other "Portfolio" works to be auctioned; however, readers should also be aware of another aspect of tonight's event, "Art to Wear," an array of handmade, hand-painted and tie-dyed jogging outfits, silk kimonos, embroidered and appliqued evening bags, necklaces, silk blouses and skirts, quilted jackets, a moire taffeta ethnic jacket — even four sets of hand-painted baby clothes.

Chairpersons Martha Chatelain and Ed Pieters of the Maple Creek Art Gallery (where all last week "Portfolio" art was exhibited) hope the public will be so responsive that bidders will snap up everything. Unfortunately, this may not occur, and not only because of the state of the economy.

As you will see tonight, some modes of artistic expression require detailed interpretations and analysis. And, although most of the artists have submitted statements about their work, some pieces may be so far removed from the average person's experience that viewers may be incapable of responding to them.

Listen carefully to the KPBS auctioneer's spiel tonight, and you may come down with "collectionitis."