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News

New exhibit in Ferndale examines intimate relationships

Originally printed 1/29/09 (Issue 1705 - Between The Lines News)

"Identity Joys," a new exhibit that features the works of two local artists, will run from Jan. 19 to Feb. 20 at the Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery. An opening reception is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 23.

The exhibit highlights art that talks about intimate relationships between partners. The personal narratives in their work created as a result of analyses of self-association with the other person and reflection of their relationships as seen through the attributes of popular culture.

Patrick Burton studied at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and School of the Art Institute in Chicago, earning his BFA in 1983. He completed post-bachelor studies at Wayne State University, and received his MLS from the University of Detroit. The evolution of his work began in painting, then moved on to politically charged performance art and finally back to painting. While exhibiting and performing primarily in metropolitan Detroit, his work has also been featured in San Diego, West Hollywood, San Francisco, Chicago and Minneapolis.

Burton's compositions of words include images of flowers, hearts, insects, birds and needlepoint patterns, borrowing heavily from folk tradition, particularly Ukrainian and Polish. His use of pastel colors - pearlized and glittered - embrace the sensibility of consumerist goods, especially those designed for young girls and endorsed by the agents of popular culture. Antique and antiquation, kitsch and camp collide in his collective souvenirs of innocence and beauty.

John Harkins received his BFA in Drawing from University of Michigan and MFA in Painting from Wayne State University. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions nationally and in Detroit Metro area. Locally he exhibited at such places as Detroit Artist Market, Metropolitan Center for the Creative Arts and Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, Wayne State University Community Arts Gallery and Slusser Gallery at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Stubnitz Gallery at Adrian College and Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community

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Center in Ferndale. He taught at Wayne State University and Oakland Community College and currently he is a Professor of Foundation Studies at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery is located on the west side of Woodward, south of Nine Mile inside of Paramount Bank.

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