

The Book Den

Every Story Tells a Picture

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

BY COMBINING PHOTOGRAPHY WITH POETRY, Laurence Scott plays images off of words to create “phoetry”. Scott’s unique artistic hybrids will be on display at The Book Den during the month of November.

“I get an inexpressible amount of joy from completing something that is complete in itself,” said Scott. “I compare it to how a musician feels when finishing a song: the perfect blending of music and words.”

Many of Scott’s “phoems” are clever or humorous imaginings of cliches, puns, or double entendres. A natural with words from a young age, Scott fell in love with language by being read to as a child. “My mother wasn’t very affectionate, so the only time my brother and I could get close to her was by snuggling with her when she read to us,” he said. “I learned to read by reading over my mother’s shoulder and watching her as she pointed to the words. I



Horns of a Dilemma

by Laurence Scott

Since you’ve gone I’m all strung out, with just the bare bones of an ideology. I can’t buck the system, and now I’ve lost the point.

loved stories right off the bat.”

Scott began writing stories of his own and went on to study theatre, television, production, and screen writing at Cal State Fullerton. After working for the Orange County Education Department creating

educational videos, Scott returned to school and studied law at Western State College of Law. He moved to Santa Maria with his family in the early ‘90s and settled into life as a lawyer. Now that his daughter has gone to college, Scott has cut back his work schedule to half time. He plans to retire within the year and devote more time to his artistic interests.

“Outside of being in love, I’ve never really felt connected,” said Scott. “Creating a piece of art is like putting a piece of you into permanent form, like presenting a small facet



Laurence Scott

of the self to the world, in order to form connections with people of like mind.”

Scott’s first camera came to him unexpectedly. He found a camera at base camp while serving in the military police in Vietnam.

After asking around for its owner, Scott figured it fell off the truck of a GI passing through and started experimenting. “I found I was more interested in the mackerel view of the world, like taking close-ups of the lights at the prisoner of war camp,” he said. “I’ve always been more interested in the design rather than the composition of photographs.”

Around 95% of the images Scott captures are unstaged and lend themselves easily to inspiring Scott’s poetry. “Our primary method of observation is through our eyesight, but we express ourselves primarily through words,” said Scott. “Overlapping photography with poetry connects what we see visually with the way we think verbally to play with multiple levels of meaning.”



Fabrications

by Laurence Scott

They’ve found that love’s a joke to those it most admires. You lied about your age. Now eat your heart out. We no longer match.

A reception celebrating the artist’s first solo show will be held during November’s 1st Thursday from 5 to 8pm.

The Book Den is located at 15 E. Anapamu St. Hours are 11–6pm, Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5pm, Sunday. For more information, call 962-3321 or visit www.bookden.com.



Hedy Price Paley

“Blue Moon/
Red Horse”

687-6173

MORNINGSTAR
STUDIO



B.J. Stapen
www.bjstapen.com
plein air oil paintings