

Montecito Frame & Gallery

Femininity

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

TO CELEBRATE THE GRACEFUL, YET POWERFUL ESSENCE OF THE FEMININE, Montecito Frame & Gallery is hosting *Femininity*, a juried exhibition featuring more than 40 artists' interpretations of the theme. The show will be on display through the month of February.

"Landscapes dominate most of the galleries in the area and we wanted to do



Cup Bearer by Patricia Post



Duane Unkefer

something with figures and people," said Duane Unkefer, curator. "All kinds of females – young and old – appear doing all kinds of things. Some pieces have no women in them at all, but still express a view of femininity – like the sensuous and colorful photographs of orchids."

Unkefer is the director of Chalk Gallery in Carpinteria and has taught figure and portrait drawing through SBCC's Adult Education program for 18 years. A graduate of NYU, Unkefer also studied art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and with figure/portrait painter Albert Handell in Woodstock, NY.

"I love the combination of the simple and the complex," said Unkefer. "As I made the selections for the show, I looked first and foremost at how a piece expressed the theme,



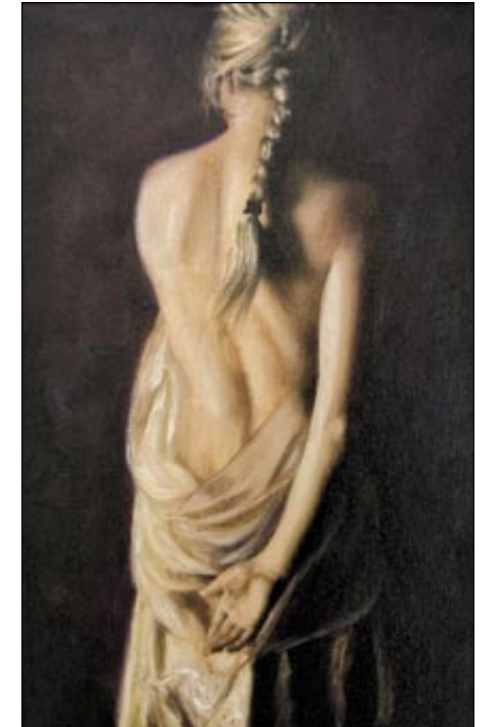
Blanche (marble, 20" x 10" x 10") by Francine Kirsch

then the emotional impact that connects you to the work, and finally the technical excellence in the medium and skill in the composition."

The open call for submissions drew 60 artists with 78 pieces selected for the show. "So many artists are asking me to do it again," said Michelle Thomas, Montecito Frame & Gallery owner. "It was a great way to meet new artists and give those just breaking in a chance to show their work. We'll most likely host another juried show in September."

During the opening reception, awards were given to the artists who best captured the theme. "The show gives us a refreshing look at some of the best artists that Santa Barbara has to offer," said Unkefer. Mary Carol Kenney's piece *Forgotten Housewife* tied for first place with Joyce Wilson's highly detailed and almost photographic painting *Laura*. Rogers Cranor took second place for his piece *Woman in Black* and Virga Siauciunaite's piece *Sunshine* earned 3rd place. Honorable mentions were also awarded: W. Jelinck, Patricia Post, Sally Hamilton, Janice Gilbar Treadwell, Marianne Romeo, Rebecca Davis, Matteo, and Francine Kirsch.

"Regardless of place or time, studies have shown that people respond universally



Laura by Joyce Wilson

to two kinds of pictures: those with a human face and those with a blue sky," said Unkefer. "Art has a way of making us aware of what we can't always see that is informative but also emotionally soothing. I hope with this show that people renew their interest in the human figure and feel soothed in the process."

Montecito Frame & Gallery is located at 2173 Ortega Hill Rd, Summerland. Hours are 9-5pm, Mon through Fri, and 10-3pm, Sat. For more information, call 969-1129 or visit www.montecitoframe.com.