

Edward Cella Art+Architecture @ Cabana Home

## Mollie Favour's Landscape

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

**F**LAGRANT EYE CATCHING ORANGE in the form of October pumpkins and gourds prepare viewers for the earthy offerings of mixed media and oils by painter Mollie Favour in the Cabana Home gallery.

Not an average art venue, Cabana looks at the artwork and then builds their showroom around it in home-like vignettes, according to co-owner Steve Thompson.



Fig #5, 2011, Oil on panel 13.5x10.75" by **Mollie Favour**

Cabana's current exhibit of new work by Mollie Favour offers a broad earthy palette. "I'm a colorist," the artist shared in a telephone conversation about her work. "Hopefully I offer a modern take on botanicals. I'm not interested in re-doing something."

A Westerner by birth, Favour was born in Arizona, and lives in Venice, California, and reflects a close to nature sensibility in her chosen life and artistic expression.

"I started out being a ceramic artist," she explained. She earned a Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts in ceramics. But then, "I realized I missed color... I was craving color so I started painting right out of grad school... I like the feeling of having color close up. With ceramics color is after you take it out of the kiln."

Her first paintings were plein air landscapes, all "very colorful." When she moved to Venice and established her studio there ten years ago, the landscapes didn't work.

"I got my French easel ready and all I could see were buildings and cars!" she elaborated.



**Mollie Favour**

As she problem-solved working in her new environment, Favour began taking bits of local seedpods into her studio. "I began to notice what the flower would look like... I'm interested in the seed pod and flowers." From that interest her series "L.A. Seed Pods" emerged. Much of the show at Cabana is drawn from it. "Things bloom 12 months of the year in L.A.," she added.

In her botanical interests Favour finds a relationship to the many Victorian women who also did botanical paintings. She also feels a connection with artists Arthur Dove, Martha Hartley, and even Georgia O'Keefe.

"My work is fairly expressionist - I paint from an emotion... I like when there are different layers of hopefulness"

This exhibit offers a lot of sweet peas, which the artist explains have a symbiotic relationship with their environment, fixing nitrogen in the soil and leaving the soil better than when it came. "They're a metaphor for how we should all behave on the earth," she explained.

The exhibit also offers images of figs. "Figs are an old form of life - like gingkos and cycads. They've been around a long



Soil, 2010, Oil on canvas 51 x 39" by **Mollie Favour**

time. Their flower is on the inside.

Favour's love of nature, and gardening continues to inform her work. When talking of her show, also on her mind was the new "hot pile of compost" she had just got going. It was working and alive.

"I've had a deep concern for quite some time about how we're going to get out of this mess we're in," she related. "Finally people are starting to realize that corporations can't rule. They're realizing how interconnected we all are - as humans and plants and animals."

Favour's work is on view at Cabana Home through Nov 5th. Cabana is located at 111 Santa Barbara St and open Tues-Sat 10-6pm and by appt. Contact them at 962-0200.