



Lovers by Marilyn Carren

SURFACE TREATMENT

What: *Tower Artists Fine Art Exhibit*
Where: Chase Texas Tower Lobby, 200 S. 10th Street, McAllen
When: Through September 10, 2016. Hours: daily except Sunday, 9am-5pm
Info: 956-583-ARTS

Exhibition or Display?

When does a display become an exhibition? What is the distinction between the two terms? For me, an exhibition indicates a showing of related artworks or objects that demonstrate a particular skill, craft, or idea. One can enjoy variations on a theme or different approaches to a medium, while a display offers unrelated art pieces or objects where the number of works may be most important consideration. This brings us to the summer installment of the *Tower Artists Fine Art Exhibit*. Coordinated by Chris Shaw, Upper Valley Art League member, the artists were once again allowed to self-curate. By doing their own selecting, rather than having an objective curator or selector, the show lacks a unifying focus. Eight artists are participating in this show with paintings, watercolors, mixed media, and photographs.

The paintings, watercolors, and photographs dominate. And while watercolorists Luis Ramirez and Serena Pandos interpret the local urban landscape, painters and photographers explore unrelated concerns and approaches. Lourdes Ballard's abstract oil paintings pull the viewer into a visually hypnotic rhythm. "Dynamic Flow" uses repeated S-shaped gestures and fills the picture plane with writhing shapes that could be what plastic might look like if it were a growing life form. Her "Spirited Force" adds aggression with stronger color and tonal contrasts resulting in what seems to be a battle against itself. In complete contrast to Ballard's style and content, Allyssa Ray Yamaguchi embraces youthful innocence. Her representational oil painting, "Ignited Soul," is a gentle statement of a young girl whose hands cradle and releases shapes of glowing life; her eyes lock on ours with an inner assurance.

Phyllis Leverich's black and white photograph, "Illuminate, La Sagrada Familia," conveys to us the grandeur of light entering through the windows of a medieval church. A brilliant study in tonal composition, Leverich combines analog photography with digital

printing for her traditional imagery. Cyndee Galindo Julian has selected ambiguous images for her photographic subjects; although her prints are photographic, they take on the abstractionist's notion that shape, color, and texture are more important than the identification of an object. "Nebula R" is a color-rich image of what appears to be a rusted surface, but the coloration suggests a broader scope of photography. L.B. Rheiner leaves nothing in doubt with his "Quail Chick at Dawn," wildlife photography at its purest.

The lone mixed media work, "Just Yesterday" by René Treviño, breaks away from the plethora of works on paper and canvas. Rough mesquite sticks form a radial circle around a metal plate-like disc brutally nailed upon a circular crimson form. Simple in composition, its directness creates overpowering hopelessness. What happened yesterday, anyway?

Take the opportunity to go see the *Tower Artists Fine Art Exhibit* before the summer is over, and don't forget that two separate spaces on either side of the first floor elevators comprise the Chase Tower art gallery space. The Tower Artists are affiliated with UVAL.

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