



Dreamer by Robert Codina

SURFACE TREATMENT

What: *Upper Valley Art League 2016 October Member's Exhibit*
Where: UVAL, Kika de la Garza Art Center, 921 E. 12th Street, Mission.
When: Through Nov 4: Hours are Wed and Thurs from 10am to 2pm, Saturday 2-6pm.
Contact: 956 583-ARTS

Annual Art

It's that time of year again - the *Upper Valley Art League Member's Exhibit* is up and ready for visitors. It's a very pleasant exhibit, as UVAL exhibits usually are, with extreme expression practically non-existent. The emotional levels in these artworks lean toward the positive side, and those that suggest the deeper depths of the psyche are subtle about it. With a membership roster of around two hundred members, sometimes these shows can get a little uncertain around an exhibition's unity, but a well organized installation plan seems to have disguised any disunity this time around. Yes, there is variety in terms of subjects and media, but the sense of technical discord that I have often felt with some of the earlier UVAL exhibits has been erased. The *Members Exhibit* is currently on display at their home base, the Kika de la Garza Art Center in Mission, and welcomes leisurely viewing and thoughtful appreciation.

Most of the participating artists have settled in on meaningful artistic directions and demonstrate a refinement of visual thinking. Works are confident and encourage focused concentration. While most of the art is traditional in spirit, some artists have found new directions; Nancy Algrim, Renee Darkis, and Rebecca K. Young used unlikely materials to create interesting works. Rejecting the idea that vases must hold liquid, Algrim hand-felted her small vase, *Delphinium*, while Darkis crafted a taller vase with shibori and leather. Rebecca K Young's clever *Comforter* collages are patterned with shapes from the sides of tissue boxes, playing with meaning regarding source material and design pattern. A small group of members are displaying their paper marbling work and the unique approaches taken by each artist is interesting.

Artists whose work we have watched over the years include Juanita Gibson and Gloria J. Dietrich. Standing out among the traditional works are Gibson's watercolors of butterflies, with the beautiful *Zebra Longwings* depicted in their native habitat. Dietrich continues her large achromatic mixed media works that engage viewers from across the room. Bold geometric relationships are paired with touches of realism that just seem right, as in her *Priest's Crown Victory*. Curtis Whatley, impressive glass artist, exhibits a beautiful wave-shaped multicolor glass bowl. In his Pop-style feel good painting, *Sheru City Night Life*, Francisco Rodriguez depicts an underwater city complete with mermaids, strange sea creatures, and a Quick Kelp stand. Filled with objects and color, the composition is tightly held together with blue-green hues and strategically placed streams of bubbles.

The Upper Valley Art League welcomes new members and embraces all media and styles. Workshops and classes dealing with a variety of artistic interests are offered to members on a regular basis. If you are interested in art, and would like to become a part of this organization, contact UVAL.

Nancy Moyer, Professor Emerita of Art, UTRGV, is an art critic for The Monitor. She may be reached at nmoyer@rgv.rr.com