

No LIMITS

A pair of artists' with "constructions"

Les Barta and Michael McAlister show their interesting pieces of work at the L.H. Horton Jr. Art Gallery

By Shanice Williams
Senior Reporter

The first exhibition of spring semester was off to a great start Thursday, January 26 night when the L.H. Horton Jr. Gallery opens its door to the public to view the two solo works which were photo constructions by Les Barta and "Construction Zone: Assemblages" by Michael McAlister. As the crowd of onlookers entered the gala, their reaction to the images before them was—priceless.

These two individual artists offered a display of pure imagination because only using that is one able to peer into the image before them and truly appreciate what the artist is trying to say. Both artists have done exceptional jobs in conveying their talent to the public by presenting distinctive works of art.

"For me, this particular piece represents that of something unattainable, just by the way in which the artist has engulfed the protruding image within the inward design. It quite fascinating and it will definitely catch the attention of others and the fact that it's the first image you see," said Danielle Romalotti, referring to the display titled "Frank Religion" by Les Barta.

Barta stated that "Frank Religion" suggests philosophical variations of this construct relative to the greeted context of metaphors for abstract intent.

Many of the designs had their vibe, which immediately became apparent as the crowd grew as the night went on. "San Francisco Flowers" which was created with an Ijet with archival inks was quite interesting, with its depiction of the floral arrangement of the City by the Bay.

Barta's photo constructions are derived from photography, digitally sectioned and positioned to question perception and our sense of beauty. McAlister's mixed-media assemblages are transformed into post-modern retablos, blending iconography and found objects.

"To be honest, I didn't really like this piece, because to me it seemed a bit too vulgar for my taste, but I do think that some of the material used in creating this piece stood out more than the actual meaning, and there are other pieces which I find to be attention-worthy, though just not this one," John Henry said, while walking away from McAlister's "Bosch and Fire truck."

Much can be said about each display, but what can't be said is each image is the same, because each image is different, allowing the individual viewer to make his or her own judgment without feeling as though it's been said before. Each photo construction displays a different image, such as a field of flowers, like that of Les Barta's "Sunflowers," that are complete eye worthy for the simple fact the place



Photos by Karyn Gilbert/IMPACT

Michael McAlister's "The Mortal Ciol," which contains mixed media assembled and was made in 2004.

in the photo is beyond typical.

"Each of this individual displays represents something diverse from the other; even though they grouped together, they still have the effect of illusion that a person can still admire all three without just focusing their attention on one meticulously," said Barbara Grayson, while admiring McAlister's "A Soul's Folly No.10, No. 4, No.7."

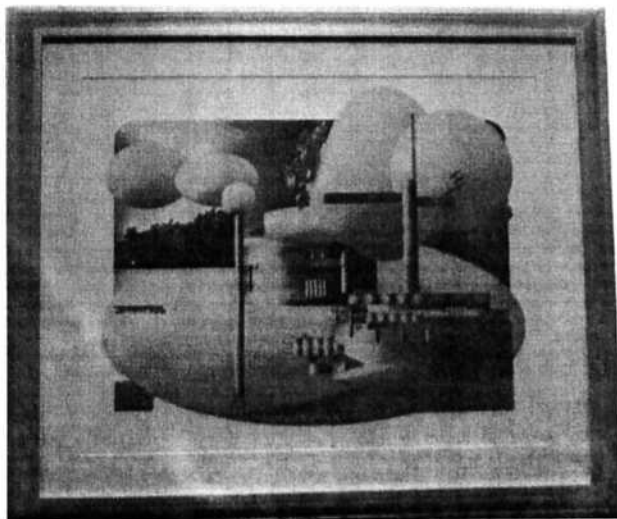
Barta mentions in his artist statement that the world speaks to us in metaphors and a metaphor is just an alternate de-

sign. We know the world through its design. Barta says his artwork is not about describing the world; it is about deciding the world. It is not about the nature of "true reality" or any particular design. He lastly remarks that what matters is the freedom and power, itself, to assume, to decide.

While McAlister settles for a more subtle approach, he mentions in his artist statement that his work evolved from two-dimensional collages to three-dimensional mixed media constructed assemblages. He states that his work, for him, represents a sort of "spiritual surrealism," sometime in gothic nature, sometime in humorous. Hopefully he wants his work to be thought provoking to the viewers, as well as visually stimulating in it's iconic, rather than narrative, approach.

Both artists simply try to convey through images their own perception of what they hope to

voice to the public viewing their work. Each image is different and truly worth seeing, so I encourage all of you who love art to come down to the gallery and enjoy the work on display, because you won't be disappointed: There is something to view there for everyone. And for those of you, who are new to art, please don't let that stop you from enjoying something that will broaden your horizons. Also, remember these works of art will be on display from now until February 23, so don't miss out.



Les Barta's "Nut Forest" is two of five in the series and was made in 1993.

Local events

Saturday, Feb. 4

Stockton Symphony: Classics IV

Atherton Auditorium

6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Speaker, Johnnie Terry: Freaks and Society

Atherton Auditorium

11 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Delta PSI- Psycho Theater Presents: The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Holt 213

6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23

MACCC Honor Band

Atherton Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24

Dark of the Moon

Studio Theater

8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25

FFA Speaker

Atherton Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25

SJDC Music Faculty Recital

Tillie Lewis Theater

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dark of the Moon

Studio Theater

8 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Dark of the Moon

Studio Theater

10 a.m.