

Calendar

Art Mini-Reviews

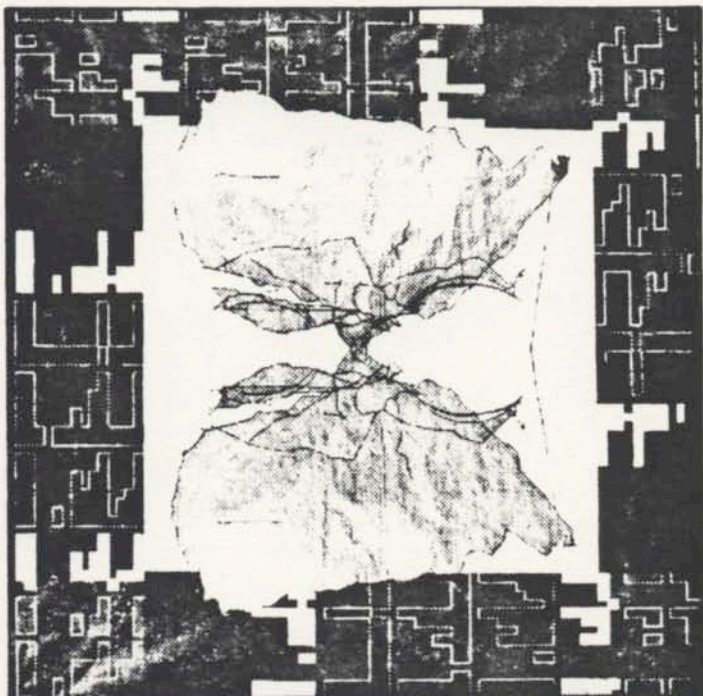
Dorothy Burkhart writes about art for the Mercury News.

Controversial Public Art: From Rodin to DiSuvero. Throughout history artists have idealized the famous in bronze and marble. But once artists violated expectations of what sculpture or painting should look like, they got in trouble. Fourteen case studies of controversial art are examined in this interesting show. San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, 155 Grove St., San Francisco, through April 7. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, Thursdays until 9 p.m. Free. (415) 558-4445.

Crime and Punishment. It's a pity a show with such a strong theme and one that draws upon such potentially explosive material is not as powerful as it could have been. Yet, whatever the flaws of the show as a whole, it boasts many individually interesting and, as expected, aggressive images that crackle with color, most notably, Rupert Garcia's "Assassination of a Mexican Worker." The Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave. Santa Clara, in the Santa Clara Civic Center, through April 1. Noon-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, noon-5 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. Free. (408) 248-4585.

Faces. It's not just another pretty face you'll find here but faces drawn from the art world, business, politics and Bay Area neighborhoods, done by artists who chiefly work outside official art circles. Heaped together is high art, low art, good art, bad art. Helen Euphrat Gallery, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, through April 27. Gallery closed for spring break, March 20 to April 2. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. (408) 996-4672.

Juan Gris. This exhibition offers a rare look at a cubist still life painter, a camp follower of Picasso and Braque, who, in certain ways, visually surpassed his more celebrated colleagues. Gris' designer's instinct for strikingly elegant arrangements, lyrical rhythmic patterns and sensuous Matissean color set him apart from the cubist crowd. University Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, through April 8. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. \$3 adults (18-64); \$1.50 seniors, \$1.50 (5-17). (415) 642-2358.



'Portrait of Pauline Oliveros,' Morgan O'Hara, Works

Lee Kraemer: a Retrospective. This pioneering abstract expressionist, the wife of Jackson Pollock, is finally getting her due with a big, 35-year painting and drawing retrospective that plays up her swinging, staccato visual rhythms. Verdict: When she was good, she was very good (the late '60s and early '70s). San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street, San Francisco, through April 1. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays and Fridays, till 10 p.m. Thursdays and 5 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. \$3 adults, \$1.50 seniors and ages 5-16, free 4 and under, free after 6 p.m. Thursdays. (415) 863-8800.

Modern Romances. If sentimentality leaves you cold, try this punkish interpretation of contemporary "love." Nine Bay Area artists focus on the cynical aspects of relationships, and this cynicism is punctuated by their

harsh, neo-expressionist style. The scenarios include violence, torture, passion, satire and more; they're often funny, sometimes memorable, other times ho-hum in depictions of the sacred and the profane in dire combat. San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, 377 S. First St., San Jose, through today. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Free. (408) 998-4310.

Time, Space, Knowledge. Morgan O'Hara is a strange yet fascinating conceptual artist who draws upon her experiences and those of others to make charts, portraits, maps and drawings. Color-coded charts show how she spends her time, life histories of friends turn into pen and ink diagrams of their travels. It's an unusual show, to say the least, but better than it sounds. Works San Jose, 248 Auzeras Ave., San Jose, through March 31. Noon-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. (408) 295-8378.

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