

# Arts & Entertainment PEOPLE

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## Bay Area artists' diverse works featured in annual show

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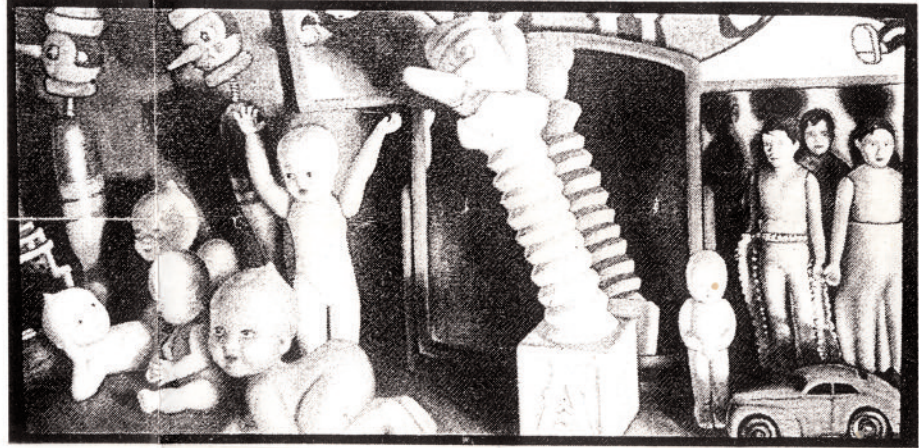
### NAPA

It's wild, whimsical, irreverent, experimental, puzzling and fun — and it opens a window on the vibrant Bay Area art scene.

It's the annual exhibition of the work of Bay Area artists, presented by the Napa Valley College Fine Arts "Bay Area Art IV," which opened this week at the college's fine arts gallery. A reception for the 22 artists represented in the show takes place Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

"This truly is a special exhibition for the community," said John Hannaford, who along with art collector Rene di Rosa selected the works from more than 100 submissions from nine Bay Area counties.

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Leslie Frierman Grunditz's "Strange Encounters," acrylic on canvas. The artist is one of 22 whose works were selected for "Bay Area Art IV."

## Artists

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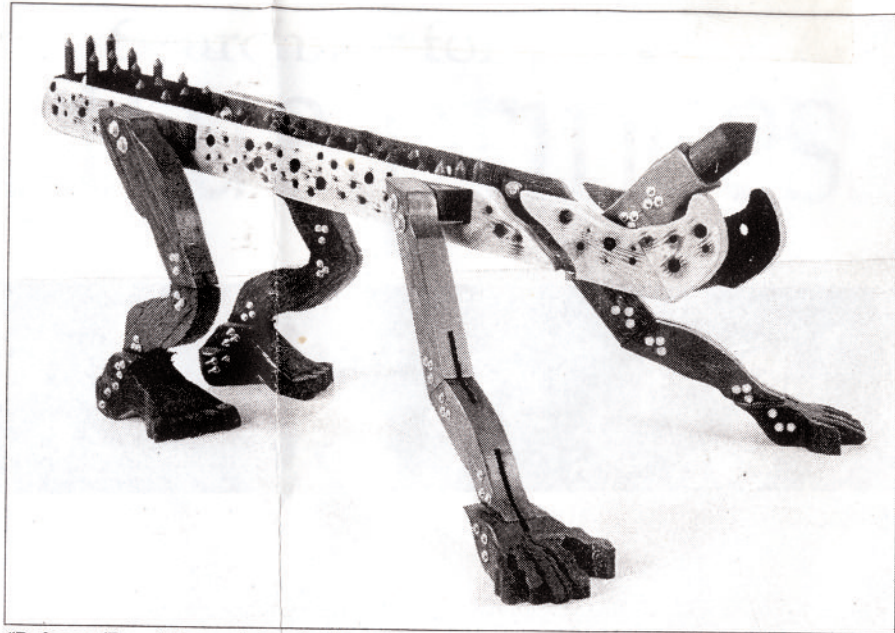
The ever-astonishing diversity of the region shines through in the eclectic variety represented within this one show. Hannaford noted, it "hosts a stylistic range from abstraction to realism, with narrative, personal mythology, lyrical and figurative art ... The media represented include painting, photography, mixed media, sculpture and assemblage. The artists represent a span of career stages."

The result is, "an exuberant, wonderful celebration of contemporary art being created in the Bay Area," Hannaford said. "Viewing the exhibition is a way to put your finger on the pulse of what is going on in the art world of the Bay Area."

Consider the pink organdy dress, dangling from the ceiling, festooned with squares of plastic, each with a lipstick imprint, and a name like "Pink Poodle," or "Bite Me Pink." The artist, Lisa Levine of Oakland, calls it "Just the Right Shade of Lipstick for the Dress."

And there's "Seduce. Reveal. Répel," by Warren MacMillan of San Francisco, which will surely lose something in description: It's a huge leather chest, balanced on wooden legs, that opens to reveal a spiked interior, and it's topped by a light fixture with a red light bulb. You can't help but love it.

And there's the plaster head balanced on top of a teetering stack of books: It's "Body of Knowledge," by Sharon Anderson from San Rafael.



"Defense (Beast)," a sculpture by Warren MacMillan, created from wood, hardware and glass, is part of Bay Area Art IV," opening this week at the Napa Valley College Fine Arts Gallery.

The works are all part of "a representative sample of the issues and media being explored and worked in by Bay Area artists," explained Hannaford, who teaches art at the college.

The Bay Area, Hannaford noted, has given birth to significant art movements, not the least of which is funk art, created from "found materials" and the intriguing narrative art, the point of which, Hannaford explained, is to "draw the story out of you."

Both funk and narrative art are well represented in the show, as well as ones that defy typing. Two of the most compelling pieces come from Sausalito artist Tom Gherig, who combines haunting

The show runs through March 23 at the Napa College Fine Arts gallery, located at 68 Coombs St., Napa. It is open to the public, free, Monday through Friday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

realistic images with frames of maps and charts, in his "Reconnoitering the Passage to Deception Pass," and "The Artist's Fourth Attempt to Locate the Black Crowned Heron."

But enough of this futile attempt to describe what should be viewed. The show runs

through March 23 at the Napa College Fine Arts gallery, located at 68 Coombs St. It is open to the public, free, Monday through Friday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

See it if you can.  
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