



PECTRUM COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATES

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MANIKINS SPEAK OUT AT GALLERY 1134

The manikins interact in a silent, detached, unemotional world oblivious to the fact they live in a glass house and wield a mysterious psychological power over the emotions and thoughts of an audience.

These manikins live in an environment created by artist Marjorie Smith who is displaying her artwork, along with seven other artists, in an exhibit at Gallery 1134, 1134 West Washington Boulevard, which opens January 21 at 5:00 P.M. and runs through February 27.

"Manikins express my feelings about reality and the self-image, especially the self-image of Women," said Ms. Smith, explaining why she finds working with manikins a fascinating experience. "Manikins are life-like yet symbols of what we expect women to be. It's strange the way the myth and reality converge in them. Manikins become real, while people try to look like plastic symbols."

The show called Group 77 features, besides Ms. Smith, Fred Annes, Rich Barcheck, Barbara Blades, Arturo Cubacub, Mike Ferris, Danielle Gsponer and Iola Rigacci.

These artists and sculptures work in a variety of concepts and media.

Rich Barcheck works in acrylic lacquer paints that allow, as one critic put it, "compositions that range from visionary romanticism to bluntly explicit structure, variations and combinations that fit side by side without apparent incongruity or conflict."

Barbara Blades' grid paintings give the viewer a feeling of total tonal progression. She says her intent is to create ambiguity, surprise or mystery by interplaying a structured format with subtle variation.

Dannelle Gsponer's work is inspired by "ancient egyptian art, light bulb shapes, birth and cracks, which are a symbol for failure and transiency."

Arturo Cubacub takes a more philosophical approach in his paintings. "My art is a physical attempt to capture the spiratural," he explains.

Arturo Cubacub will also do a performance called "contemplation piece" on opening day at 7:30 P.M. only.

To celebrate the first birthday of Gallery 1134, founder and artist Loren Billings has created an environmental piece with manikins, which she feels are "highly specialized copies of human beings that evoke a wide range of sensations in viewers."

Manikins Speak Out

The Group 77 show can be viewed by the public Tuesday through Sunday from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

For information, call Loren Billings at 226-1007.

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