

Savannah Morning News.

Natural beauty

Diversions | Entertainment

Allison Hersh | Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 12:30 am



Paintings by Kazaan Viveiros, a talented artist based in Charlottesville, Va. , have been featured in *ARTNews*, *Artweek* and *New American Paintings*. Thanks to the art gallery 2CarGarage, her work can now be enjoyed in Savannah.

"Recent Works by Kazaan Viveiros," a solo show which will be on display at 2CarGarage until March 22, celebrates the imaginative compositions and detailed brushwork of this rising star, whose work hangs in the U.S. State Department and in the corporate collections of TIME/Warner and eBay. In 18 compositions on paper and on panel, Viveiros uses acrylic paint to craft hyper-detailed landscapes, abstract geometric forms and nature-inspired symbolism.

"Even though the work has abstract qualities, there's always an entry point," said gallery director Michael Woody. "Kazaan's work is smart and accessible. There's a certain versatility to it."

From the animistic symbology of "Life and Death" to the mythological splendor of "Pomegranate," Viveiros's compositions are defined by an air of spirituality and a drive to arranged disparate objects in a collage-like fashion that emphasizes their unexpected connection. In her most recent body of work, she combines strong geometry with subtle colors - from muted sage to pale amber - to create a series of miniature paintings scattered across the surface of each composition.

"This group of work for the most part, centers on the natural world," said Viveiros. "I have become increasingly concerned about the health of the planet, and I am often thinking and reading about species of plants and animals that are endangered and environmental changes."

Images of the ocean, earth, flowers and tree branches recur throughout many of the paintings on display, lending a Zen-like quality to the work at hand. By juxtaposing geometric fields of color with detailed landscapes and seascapes, she highlights the pantone links that run through nature. An eloquent series of botanical paintings focuses on water lilies, dogwood blossoms and other exotic blooms, each of which is underscored by a band of solid, matte color at the bottom of the composition.

"I work intuitively, much as an abstract painter would," said Viveiros. "I also have a draftsman in me, too - a mathematical, literal side which comes out with the realistic renderings of objects, animals and symbols."

Viveiros earned an M.F.A. in Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute and a B.A. in Studio Art and Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. Over the past several years, her paintings been featured in solo shows in New York, San Francisco and Rome. Although her work showcases elements of abstraction, it also maintains a strong tie to the realist tradition.

"I just cannot let go of realism altogether," confessed Viveiros. "I have great respect for the amazing skill it takes to paint in the realist style, yet I am always wanting to tweak reality, just a bit, to comment on the fact that what you are looking at is not only what is depicted within the work, but it is paint and wood. It is a physical thing, and it is also physical evidence of the creative process of the human mind."

IF YOU GO

What: "Recent Works by Kazaan Viveiros"

When: Through March 22

Where: 2CarGarage, 30 W. Broughton St., Suite 205

Gallery hours: 2-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and by appointment

For information: (912) 272-3978 or www.2cargallery.com