

# Arts & Entertainment

## Inter-Alia gallery opens with diverse exhibition

Inter-Alia Fine Arts  
Grand Opening Exhibition  
through October 13

by Cathy Duong

The Inter Alia Fine Arts Gallery opened its doors on September 24, featuring paintings by five artists: Vivian Thierfelder, Gerald Smith, Brian Seymour, Greg Dow and Frank Haddock. The paintings range in price from several hundred to \$14,000.

At the higher end of the scale are paintings of Vivian Thierfelder, a native Edmontonian who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alberta. One must see her work to appreciate its uniqueness. Comments such as

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"amazing", "incredible", and "I never thought you could do that" from admirers of her paintings describe her meticulous work.

The water-colour paintings featured at the gallery are the newest additions to her accumulation of twenty years' worth of work. They mainly comprise lavish table settings with flowers and delicacies. Each painting is photographic and vibrating with colours. Every inch shows great technical details. The tiny droplets of water on luscious fruits, the stamp on a

letter, the veins on the flower petals and even a miniature postcard of a Degas painting illustrate the care she takes.

Brian Seymour's artistic style is different. His paintings are, interestingly, of kachina dolls (which are used in ceremonial traditions of the Zuni and Hopi Indians of the American Southwest). The paintings are bright, employing strong imagery and bold patterns.

Greg Dow's paintings reflect urban life. The scenes are of visitors in galleries and museums. Dow deals with the interplay of light and shadow in his paintings to define the shapes and contours of his objects.

Gerald Smith features a series of paintings of people in modern art galleries. Here the people in his paintings become a part of the modern sculptures and paintings surrounding them. These elements interact to display striking visual effects. It is also interesting for a gallery visitor to see the other visitors in these paintings. One painting to note is "Imaginary Degas Exhibition". It shows a young woman in a room of Degas' art works.

Frank Haddock has displayed a painting of a man standing behind a poster board with the picture of Michaelangelo's David on it. The man seems to be a tourist posing for a camera. Haddock works mostly from photographs and has incorporated five different scenes into the above painting. Haddock focuses on two aspects when working: how colours relate his objects and what the objects are doing.

Haddock is currently working on seascapes to be seen in the November 26 exhibition.

The Grand Opening Exhibition at Inter Alia Fine Arts Gallery will run until October 13.



Vivian Thierfelder shows off her work at the opening of Inter-Alia Fine Arts.

Paul Menzies

## U of A alumni artist exhibits at Latitude 53

Hudson Wong: The Chess Game  
Latitude 53  
through October 31

interview by Chuck Painter

Hudson Wong is a man of many talents. In 1970, he graduated from the U of B.C. with a Bachelor of Science degree. Ten years later, he found his way to Alberta, and enrolled in the Fine Arts program here at the U of A. By 1982, Mr. Wong had completed his Fine Arts degree and was on his way to becoming one of Edmonton's most dynamic artists.

In 1985, Hudson Wong began his work upon "The Chess Game", a series of oil paintings inspired by an article from a Philadelphia newspaper. The article, a chess column, describes a game in which "black" successfully defeats "white" by employing the "King's Indian Defence". For Wong, chess is a "purer form of life", and he plays to win. Hudson Wong's perspective on the game is razor sharp. "When you beat someone at chess, you've not just beaten them physically, but you've beaten that person's mind."

What makes his "Chess Game" paintings so interesting is that each piece is actually

ten or 20 paintings, each layer building towards the final image. They have gone through a slow transformation, leaving only hints as to what was there before. The images of chess depicted in "The Chess Game" are very abstract and carry deep meaning for both artist and viewer. When pressed for the secrets behind these paintings, Wong is elusive. "Art is a dynamic equilibrium of visual expression and visual

"What I paint is  
who I am. What  
you see is who  
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perception. What I paint is who I am. What you see, is who you are."

Beginning on September 30th and continuing through October, you'll have the opportunity to view Wong's fascinating collection of oils at the Latitude 53 Art Gallery. Check it out and take the time to look beyond what your eyes see. If you're lucky, you'll learn something about yourself and the world we live in.

## J. Jonah Jameson: A plea for bongos

by Susan Robins

Peter Parker, alias Spiderman, works for the Daily Bugle newspaper in New York City. His publisher is J. Jonah Jameson, a cigar-sucking, crew-cut, Nazi-moustached tyrant. So why name an Edmonton band after him? Ben McCaffery, guitar player for the J. Jonah Jamesons explains. "We are called the J. Jonah Jamesons because we all look like him." It is true; I'm surrounded by six tall skinny guys with short hair all bearing a resemblance to that comic book character. Paul Mather, Ben McCaffery, Ed Garrick, Mitchell Gray, Rod Oldstad, and Tad Warsynski comprise the band. All are current or previous students and all are enthused about their music.

The J. Jonah Jamesons were born two summers ago with the merging of Mitch, Ed, and Ben as the rhythm section, and the other members have been adopted along the way. They've performed at the Sidetrack Cafe, the Phoenix downtown, and the City Media Club. Ben hopes for more: "We'd like to open at SUB." Ed mentions the Red Barn.

"Our music is primitive cosmopolitan, like pretend jazz," all the J. Jonahs agree. I interpret this as translating into eclectic

rock and roll. But how well does this go over in Edmonton? The J. Jonah Jamesons believe that the music venues in Edmonton are not terribly receptive to new, unsigned bands. "A lot of places are narrow-minded," says Mitch. "You have to play covers to get into some clubs, and have a large following," adds Ben. The J. Jonahs do write all of their own songs except for one, a slightly thrashed version of "Farmer in the Dell."

Future plans include a spot on a pink-vinyl compilation album to be released at Christmas. There is no title as of yet, but the album features ten unrecorded Edmonton groups. Its purpose is to "expose bands who haven't had any exposure," says Paul. "The idea is, don't let the fruit rot on the tree." Thus there will be four minutes of rock and roll stardom for the J. Jonah Jamesons, and they hope for, not chicks and beer, but "intellectual stimulation." Sure you do guys.

As far as immediate plans, the J. Jonah Jamesons are playing this Friday night at the Ritz Diner. It is a benefit gig for Tad, who had his bongos stolen last performance. A plea for bongos: "Please bring them back whoever took them." The J. Jonah Jamesons won't prosecute.



J. Jonah Jameson: Tall, skinny guys with short hair.

Dragos Ruiu