

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Tom Pazderka

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Everything is True, Nothing is Permitted*, a solo exhibition of works by Czech-American artist Tom Pazderka's weighty oil, ash and charcoal paintings on burned panel and paper. The exhibition runs through May 31, 2019, with a preview reception on May 3, from 5-8pm, during downtown Asheville's gallery stroll.

The exhibition is a commentary on the developing mores of the 21st century and the age of cyberspace. It is a play on the more familiar maxim, "Nothing is True, Everything is Permitted" which Pazderka has reversed and given new meaning. Offered in this exhibition are a selection of paintings based on found family photos from the artist's childhood, images of dictators titled with their original vocations and arresting images of smoke clouds from California wild fires near the artist's studio. Pazderka works on reclaimed wood panel which he burns and then paints with a mixture of ashes, oil, charcoal and water.

In Pazderka's words, "It's the difference between the ideology of the right vs left, if we take them as monolithic and absolute, because basically the right compels people to act a certain way (thou shalt this, thou shalt that) and the left attempts to prevent people from acting certain ways (thou shalt not). It's subtle, but that's the difference. In the digital world, information no matter if it's correct or not, real or fake, is taken in, it is all in some sense 'true.' It could be scientific fact or personal experience. They're both taken with the same veracity."

"Up until the 20th century, scientific thought based on the Enlightenment, mostly ruled the way we thought about everything, and because scientific thought was still in the process of upending centuries of religious dogma, nothing was actually true that was taken for granted," adds Pazderka. "Fast forward, as a result of everything that was possible or permitted in the 20th century, from hydrogen bombs to sending probes to Mars. More recently even this scientific based culture is being upended, because of various reasons, from feminism and gender theory to the rise of the internet, where everyone can now chime in. So, tribalism and rudimentary religious ideas



Work by Tom Pazderka

find their way back into the system that was keeping them at bay. But this is not a return to the past, it's something else. Knowledge itself is being questioned. How do we know what we know? Some ideas that were firmly believed are now being taken down, replaced by others, history is being rewritten, what was possible thirty years ago, is now completely shut out. Also, the very idea that the future is something we ought to be looking forward to, is now gone. There's no future, no past, it's the all-encompassing present "

Pazderka is an interdisciplinary artist, teacher and writer. He was born near Prague in the early 1980s towards the end of the Communist era in Czechoslovakia and emigrated to the US in 1994 when he was twelve. His work and life are deeply influenced by what he describes as the "incompleteness of the immigrant experience". He holds a BFA from Western Carolina University and an MFA from UC Santa Barbara. He has received many awards and fellowships and has held residencies in the US, France and the Czech Republic.

Bender Gallery is a premier contemporary fine art and sculpture gallery representing established and emerging artists. Their specialty is glass sculpture created by internationally acclaimed artists. The gallery also represents a growing number of notable figurative and abstract painters.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or e-mail to (Bernadette@bendergallery.com).

GreenHill in Greensboro, NC, Offers Works Focused on Sweet Foods

Sweet and processed foods are the subject of works by artists in GreenHill's spring exhibition *SWEET*, on display May 3 through July 14, 2019, in Greensboro, NC. A reception will be held on May 3, from 5:30-8:30pm.

Foods from designer cupcakes and culinary confections to Twinkies and Frosted Flakes are explored by the artists in *SWEET*. Painters Rachel Campbell, Bethany Pierce, and Stacy Crabill; and multi-media artists Kristine Baumlier-Faber, Jillian Ohl, Paul Rouso, Robin Frohardt and Ed Bing Lee investigate the cultural significance of food and the emotions enlisted by the senses of taste and aroma. Curator Edie Carpenter says, "Sweet foods are portrayed by these artists as symbols of pop culture, ephemeral triumphs of the baker's craft, and magnets for consumer taste buds, engaging visitors in a sensory exploration of food as an object of beauty and temptation."

Raleigh, NC, artist Kristen Baumlier-Faber's photographic installations present familiar processed foods such as donuts and Tang in innovative ways through combining photography, mixed media and food. Large format close-up photographs mounted on circular panels are presented next to four-gallon bowls of the foods portrayed. A glittering surface of a pool of Tang appears depthless in Baumlier-Faber's photograph and evokes one of the unique qualities of this early processed food put on the market in 1959: Tang uses sugar in a unique way so that there is no sweetness saturation point. Baumlier-Faber hopes that her work will open conversations about how the food industry influences what and how much we eat; manipulating consumer tastes for food



Work by Stacy Crabill

in ways we are largely unaware of.

Asheville painter Bethany Pierce's paintings of desserts transform oil paint into luscious textures of frothy cooked icing or creamy ganache. Painting desserts can be difficult she notes: "Beneath the spotlights, they spill and slip and lean, forcing me to work with equal parts spontaneity and deliberation. Inevitably my perfectly composed still life arrangements fall apart. The ice cream melts, the donuts mold, the cakes calcify."

The emotional resonance Pierce draws from her still life subjects evokes the passage of time. She taps into the history of art and 18th-century "momento mori" still lifes that were also a reflection on the transient nature of earthly goods. The popularity of

continued on Page 26



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.



CraftEmergency.org + StudioProtector.org

Turtle Island Pottery

Handmade pottery by Maggie & Freeman Jones



Old Fort Showroom Open Most Saturdays

Please call 828-337-0992 for an appointment any other day.

2782 Bat Cave Road • Old Fort, NC 28762

www.turtleislandpottery.com