



ONLY THE SKY COVERS YOU BETTER

Pasadena Independent

A newspaper for the community of Pasadena



LOCAL ARTIST BRINGS LIGHT

P. 21

CORE MEDIA GROUP, INC. PUBLICATIONS: ARCADIA WEEKLY, MONROVIA WEEKLY, PASADENA INDEPENDENT & SIERRA MADRE WEEKLY

THURSDAY, JAN. 31-FEB 6, 2002 VOLUME 7 No. 05

Jan. 31-Feb. 6, 2002

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A Perspective on Paintings and Projects

BY

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This is the first public exhibition of Launa Bacon, a young lady from Normal, Illinois whose range of expression spans Uberfrau (superwomen), boys in bottles with large boots, and President Bush in Ties and with Aliens. Never mind playing with the name of her hometown we've all tried. Look at her work. Her variety of tone and expression and medium is curious in a young girl who has yet to reach thirty.

Her time in Asia and Indonesia is apparent in her large canvases of blurred idiom. Its as though when viewing some of her pieces one feels as though one has intruded on a private moment in which we have embarrassingly stumbled onto. On a second look the moment still seems to be moving on and now includes us in the action.

For such a young artist it is fascinating that her observations are mostly colored in vibrant burnt siennas, which warmly invite the viewer into the comfort of the moment she has painted. Normal, Illinois is the most prominent of her influences since her subjects are decidedly American. But, the Asian experience is obvious with the feeling that beyond the action of subject painted vast dramas are taking place in which we are not included yet want to know more about.

The girl has humor as well. Large canvases - which by the way all are layered with shellacs, oil

and epoxy and alkyd so that everything glistens - are on such subjects as her family tree depicted as bats, which at the center appear vague and barely discernable portraits of members of her family.

This entire exhibition is definitely worth a look and possible two or three visits at least. Actually, three pieces stand out in my mind that I would gladly hang in my house. My first choice is Genes, a fascinating piece, small in a baroque frame - clearly antecedents of the artist. This is the message from her to us that this is where she comes from and her view

on it. The next is a beautifully sensual rendition of the Heroin Goddess. Terrifying in its beauty and subject. Then here is Nixon (not the president but a dog) in what can only be called a bad mood.

All in all this has got to be one of the most interesting exhibitions I've seen in a long time. I look forward to seeing more of her work. Some feel that she has defined herself as a painter and is just entering the second stage of her development. This is undoubtedly true, but my view is that she will soon be recognized as one of the top painters in America.



Normal girl, Launa Bacon, is spotlighted at Light Bringer Project in Old Pasadena. On the left, it seems is a depiction of Ascroft. Far left, detail of another work. The gallery is located at 64 North Raymond. Call (626)440-7379 for hours and more information on future Light Bringer Projects. Photos by Terry Miller