

'Inside/Outside: Artist Environments'

Reyhan Harmanci
Thursday, March 5, 2009

For "Inside/Outside: Artist Environments," the Museum of Craft and Folk Art's show that opens today, curator Jennifer McCabe didn't just want to show pictures of artists trying to create immersive environments - she wanted to find an artist to make one.



Artist Mike Shine re-created his Bolinas shack, constructing a physical space that people could enter and experience, for the Museum of Craft and Folk Art exhibition.

Luckily, the artist who inspired the show, Bolinas' Mike Shine, was willing and able to construct an installation in the museum. Shine, McCabe says, channels "surf skateboard culture and Nordic mythology" in his epically lo-fi space.

"The environment he created (in Bolinas) is a hub for all kinds of activity - music, art, theater, a central place for his own community," McCabe says. "In talking to him, he was interested in re-creating his space. It was an exciting proposal - to have a physical space that people could enter and experience. Working from there, I looked around, and asked: How does this fit with what other people have done?"

What McCabe found was a rich history of ordinary citizens and untaught artists making elaborate spaces to work and play. San Francisco artist Megan Wilson's colorful apartment is featured, along with Edgar Arceneaux and the Watts House Project from Los Angeles, Jacob Sockness and Merritt Wallace.

While McCabe focused on California locales, such places are found throughout the world. "I came across a whole lot of so-called artist's environments from untrained, outsider artists, who made them as a way to embellish their homes. Those kind of environments come from people who don't have many resources but have some kind of personal artistic vision that they felt a need to realize," McCabe says.

Additionally, McCabe wanted this show to push the notion of what folk art could be, and make connections between traditional folk art and contemporary practices. She put a wide range of work in the show - highlighting Cayuga Terrace's Cayuga Park, where one involved citizen has been taking care of the park, and in the process, "carving fallen trees into animals and various creatures" and Arceneaux's well-known work in the Watts House Project, which aims to be "a large-scale artwork-as-urban-development," according to its Web site (www.wattshouseproject.org), rethinking how city spaces can be used.

"It's a very OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) kind of thing," McCabe says. "And it's really everywhere. I think this show will jog people's memories."

Artist talk and reception, 6-9 p.m. Thurs. Through May 24. Museum of Craft and Folk Art, 51 Yerba Buena Lane, S.F. (415) 227-4888. www.mocfa.org.

Reyhan Harmanci, rharmanci@sfgchronicle.com
This article appeared on page F - 11 of the San Francisco Chronicle

Visual arts



Artist Mike Shine re-created his Bolinas shack, constructing a physical space that people could enter and experience, for the Museum of Craft and Folk Art exhibition.

URBAN FOLK HUBS

:: 'Inside/Outside: Artist Environments' ::

Apartments, shacks become art in the right hands

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:: OPENINGS ::

THU 5

Brian Gross Fine Art "Babylon: The Buried Language Series." Works by Sono Osato. "The Space of a Line." Works by Hadi Tabatabai. Reception Thurs. Exhibitions run through April 25. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 49 Geary St. (415) 788-1050. www.briangrossfineart.com (SF)

California Institute of Integral Studies Minna Street Center "Ineffable / Woman." Works by Pauletta Chanco, Rose Wognum Frances, Tricia Grame, others. Reception Thurs. Through March 21. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 695 Minna St., second fl. (415) 575-6242. www.ciis.edu/arts (SF)

Dolby Chadwick "Scattered Syllables." Paintings by Joshua Meyer. Reception Thurs. Through March 28. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 210 Post St. (415) 956-3560. www.dolbychadwickgallery.com (SF)

Frey Norris Paintings by Muddassar Manzoor and Attiya Shaukat. Reception Thurs. Through March 29. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. 456 Geary St. (415) 346-7812. www.freynorris.com (SF)

Haines "LandMarks." A group photography exhibition. Reception Thurs. Through April 18. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 49 Geary St. (415) 397-8114. www.hainesgallery.com (SF)

Hespe Paintings by Glen Ness. Reception Thurs. Through March 28. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 251 Post St. (415) 776-5918. www.hespe.com (SF)

John Berggruen "Was Am." Paintings by artists Squeak Carnwath; "A Matter of Form." Sculptures by Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, Tom Friedman, others. Exhibitions run through March 28. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 228 Grant Ave. (415) 781-

4629. www.berggruen.com (SF)

Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art "A (re)Turn to (re)Form." Works in digital media by Wang Tiende, Hong Lei and Gao Yuan. Through April 25. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 49 Geary St. (415) 369-9404. www.wolfecontemporary.com (SF)

SomArts "Corrections." An international installation. Reception Thurs. Through April 16. Noon-7 p.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-5 p.m. Sat. 934 Brannan St. (415) 552-2131. www.somarts.org (SF)

Togonon "Chronicle of a Place Unknown." Photographs by Jessica Skloven. Reception Thurs. Through March 28. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 77 Geary St., 2nd fl. (415) 398-5572. www.togonongallery.com (SF)

Toomey Tourell Paintings by Ursula O'Farrell. Reception Thurs. Through March 30. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 49 Geary St. (415) 980-6444. www.toomey-tourell.com (SF)

FRID

Ampersand International Arts "Amplifying the Twilight!" A group exhibition. Reception Fri. Through April 18. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri. and by appt. 1001 Tennessee St. (415) 285-0170. www.ampersandintlarts.com (SF)

City Art Works by Doug Holcomb, Hadley Northrop, Geoff King, others. Reception Fri. Through March 28. Noon-9 p.m. Wed.-Sun. 828 Valencia St. (415) 970-9900. www.cityartgallery.org (SF)

Electric Works "Why Not Say It?" Paintings by Judy North. Through April 18. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 130 Eighth St. (415) 626-5496. www.sfelectricworks.com (SF)

Gallery 94124 "Contemporary

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