



Sean Colson

Talk about all in the family. Sean Colson's father, Frank Colson, is a renowned sculptor and instructor. His mother, Diana Colson, is a writer, composer and filmmaker. Sean grew up in Sarasota. After graduating from Sarasota High School in 1979, he started a bronze casting supply business and a bronze foundry. He reproduces, repairs and restores historic Sarasota statuary, and also designs original works using bronze and other materials. He and his wife, Marina, offer art and cultural tours around the world.

I hear you started making art an early age.

I sold my first illustration for a nickel in 1965. Within an hour, I sold five drawings, just enough to buy a Matchbox car. Before the summer was over, I was able to purchase a fleet of cars. Two years later, at 7, I participated in a father-and-son exhibition in Sarasota — and John D. MacDonald purchased one of my drawings!

How would you describe your latest art?

It's pretty much the same style as when I was a kid: comical, playful, imaginative fantasy figures and machines.

How did you become interested in working in bronze?

I started manipulating clay and wax as a child. My father had — and still has — a ceramic and bronze-casting studio next to our house. When I was little, I played with these materials. As I grew older, I helped my father with his work and learned to cast my own pieces, refining my style along the way. In Elizabethan times, I would have been considered a boy apprentice.

Are you involved in any public art projects?

I cast large bronzes for projects created by other artists in the United States and Canada. Most recently, I helped design the Ringling Isles statuary urn commemorating John Ringling.

Your wife, Marina, is also an artist. How does that work?

We call ourselves the "togetherness team." We collaborate really well together.

What are your principal artistic influences?

Dr. Seuss, the movies "Chitty-Chitty Bang Bang" and "Yellow Submarine," and the town of Woodstock, N.Y.

What are your goals for Sarasota this coming season?

I hope to have an exhibition of small bronze sculptures. I'm also striving to finish text and drawings for two books, "The Book of Love and Peace" and "Baby, Peace!" (Sample drawings can be seen at www.ColsonCreations.com.) I also plan on offering classes in creating bronze sculpture.

visual arts

Style

BY SU BYRON

Surf's up

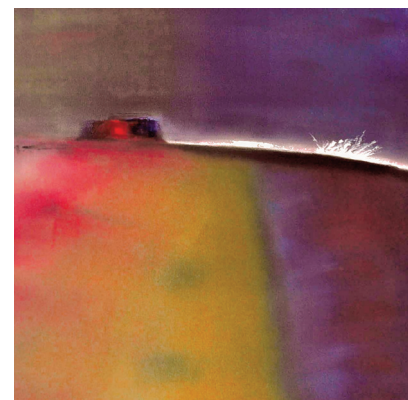


CHRIS LUNDY

Beautiful Reaper

Chris Lundy was born on Siesta Key in 1956. As he notes on his Web site, he's an artist, musician and surfer, and "still going." This month's exhibit of his large, vibrantly colored paintings at Art Center Sarasota is proof that he is, indeed, going strong. "Paintings and Prints" is an exuberant extravaganza of more than a dozen of Lundy's large "wavescapes." In the artist's words, these abstract paintings "serve as a glimpse into the rhythmic, radiant sanctuary that is the true home of many." The sanctuary to which he so reverently refers is the ocean — his favorite spiritual retreat. As a renowned surfer, Lundy waxes poetic about his "memories of moments in the ocean that are of extreme intensity and clarity." He says his painterly celebrations of water and waves are "meditations in and of themselves." Whether you surf or not, Lundy's expressive works create the bliss of riding the perfect wave. Through Sept. 12. 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota; 365-2032.

Celebrating the natural world



RUTH DWYER

Fields of Clover and Berries

Katharine Butler Gallery's "Summer Celebration" exhibit affords a glimpse at the creations of 17 inspired artists. Their work is a mixed bag of media, formats and themes, although celebrations of the natural landscape predominate. Ruth Höök-Colby offers pastel meditations on the natural world. Norine Zapata's series of landscapes, "Calm and Storms," explores the mood swings of nature, both in the world outside and the world within. Photographer David Zapata gets up-close and personal with the intricate Zen patterns of plant life. Watercolorist Ellen Kaiden's floral still-lives create a dynamic sense of joyful color in an inventively flattened picture plane. Artist and gallery owner Katharine Butler's etchings and paintings celebrate "the fragile beauty of the coast, turquoise waters of the Gulf, the skies, and the tropical palms waving in the wind and warm light." In the abstract realm, Ruth Dwyer dazzles the eye with her richly colored, sumptuous watercolor odes to the "astounding beauty of this beautiful blue planet on which we live." Along with paintings, the exhibit also features works in glass and ceramic, handmade jewelry and sculpture. Through September. 1943 Morrill St., Sarasota; 955-4546.