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This Lafayette Artist is Off The Wall

By Sophie Braccini



A Tony Zorich's sculpture.

Photo provided

Tony Zorich is a fine representative of "Outsider Art." Fearless and full of vital energy, his creations overflow with the joy of being alive. From Sept. 8 to Oct. 1 his colorful work is on display at Jennifer Perlmutter gallery in Lafayette.

Perlmutter very appropriately called the fall exhibit "Off The Wall." At the first level the 3D sculptures made of glass, fiberglass, wood and wire seem to literally emerge from the walls on which they are hung. The second meaning, wild and eccentric, is also very appropriate for the creations of this man who used to be a builder — he has "flipped" homes in the area for

the past 20 years, even before the term existed, and one day decided that he could and would produce art.

Zorich's first piece was a copy of Van Gogh's vase of flowers. He had never learned to draw.

"I started doing it. I wanted to do it, so I did it, and that's all," he says. Now Zorich continues his painting in the Fauvism vein (Van Gogh, Seurat, Gauguin, Cézanne), but also does sculptures, which is what Perlmutter is showing. He is also in the process of doing street art, and he has done performance art, with over 4,000 blue lights on a suit he wore at Burning Man. There too he constructed a 10-foot tall sculpture of an individual emerging from the sand. He plans to display it in Lafayette at some point in the future.

Some of the sculptures that will be on display in the Lafayette Gallery are made of wood, wire, paper and resin, with a little bit of oil painting.

"Some of his art is figurative, some is completely abstract," says Perlmutter, who just recently met the artist. She adds that he is a real Lafayette treasure. "Not only is his

house full of art, but he also has a studio in town," she adds. She met Zorich when he came in her gallery one day. "That's what happen when you have a place like this, artists just come in and talk to you," she says.

Zorich says that his work is all about having fun. "Anything I want to do and that seems fun, I figure out a way to do it," he says, adding that he constantly has ideas for new creations and projects, "I have so many ideas, I will never finish them all." He says that he makes about two pieces a week, just because he is compelled to do it. He has not yet thought much about selling his art.

Perlmutter and Zorich had a nice time installing two very large fiberglass fishes that light up at night outside of the gallery. "Those are so fun, and I will add balloons for the Art & Wine Festival," says Perlmutter.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is located 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, and by appointment. For more information visit www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

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Looking Good in Lamorinda

Vintage and Velvet Highlight Fall Fashions

By Moya Stone

Fall is the biggest season for fashion, when we all look forward to adding new pieces to our wardrobes as well as pulling out old favorites. So, what's up for fall 2016?

Velvet is all the rage again in dresses, skirts and jackets for day and evening. It seems capelets were around not that long ago but they're back and a good layering choice for our microclimates. And hoodies are back, although they never really left us. For 2016 they've graduated from casual sweatshirts to chic jackets and sweaters, plus we're actually sporting the hood part for a cozy look on those chilly early mornings.

Now here's a 1960s throwback - jumpers. Super cute and easy to wear, jumpers in lightweight wool plaids and solid colors are a new silhouette for the season. Acces-



Photo provided

sories include embellished gloves, bold chokers and structured handbags with extra wide shoulder straps, called "guitar straps"

"Of the moment fashion trends seem to be animal prints, especially, coats and jackets," says Barbara Grigg, vintage fashion stylist and dealer. "They seem to transcend every era and always feel chic and hip!" Speaking of vintage, coming up Sept. 10-11 is the Vintage Fashion Expo at the Hall of Flowers in San Francisco. Thirty years strong, the Expo gathers over 50 select dealers from around the country who offer for sale quality vintage clothing and accessories for men, women and children. Visit www.vintageexpo.com for more information.

Recently I stumbled upon Monaluna, a new fabric store in Walnut Creek. Shop owner Jennifer Moore designs all the fabrics with a flair for whimsy and color. Due out this fall are two new collections including Simple Life, a Scandinavian inspired line in blue and white with touches of warm red. Cottage Garden is a homage to European gardens and comes in warm colors of indigo and gray with images of hedgehogs, foxes, mushrooms and ladybugs. Miller works only with certified organic cotton in poplin, knit, barkcloth and corduroy. Time for a sewing project? Check out the website for upcoming promotions and events: www.monaluna.com.

Earlier this year I decided to learn once and for all how to sew and I've been taking classes with local designer Kamal Ragbotra through Mt. Diablo Adult Educa-

tion in Pleasant Hill. This semester Ragbotra is teaching Introduction to Sewing, in which students will learn the basics of threading a sewing machine needle, bobbins, tension adjustment, fabric options and much more. Projects include a choice of a simple skirt, pajama bottoms or an apron. Inspired? Class starts in September: www.mdae-mdusd-ca.schoolloop.com.

Kids can get a start learning to sew at SewNow Fashion Studio in Lafayette. "Our fan-favorite for fall is always the Halloween class," says owner Susan Goldie. "Students start with a personal sketch and work with SewNow! instructors to create and customize patterns, add details like embroidery, grommets, and fur, and then finish with the ultimate one-of-a-kind costume - always ready in time for Halloween." Check the website for the class schedule: www.sewnow.com/index.html

I know we're all thinking about those fall shoes and our number one favorite: boots. Now is a good time to pull them out of the closet and give a close inspection. Do they need a little TLC? A shine? A new sole? We are lucky to have three shoe repair shops in the area, all known for doing excellent work: One Stop Shoe Care and Smith's Shoe Repair in Lafayette and Orinda Shoe Service in Orinda. Show a little love to your shoes and they'll love you back by looking like new.

Have fun with your fashions this season and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at OverDressedforlife.com.



Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

Two New Exhibitions

September 18 - December 18



Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

The American Soldier, A Photographic Tribute

This is a dramatic exhibition of photographs from the Civil War to the War in Iraq that captures the essence of American soldiering, ever since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to history.

Sponsored by EADS North America
Sponsored by and presented by Business of Entertainment Inc. Cyma Rubin, producer and curator



Opening Day Program:
Lecture by Curator and Producer, Cyma Rubin.
Sunday, September 18, 3:00pm, Soda Center



September 18 - December 11

Social Justice, Its Happens to One It Happens To All

This international exhibition showcases 43 artists on the themes of social justice. Art is used as weapons in the fight for human rights to shine a light on the conditions of the oppressed.



Photo Credit: Xian Mei Qui, The Bird Cage

Public Hours:
Wed - Sun, 11 am-4:30 pm.
Museum Admission: Adults \$5;
Members and K-12 graders Free;
Parking Free
Phone: 925-631-4379
Website: stmarys-ca.edu/museum