

THE DAVIS enterprise

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August 4, 1988 by Del McColm

art

The Calgene Contemporary Fine Art Competition, juried by Clayton Bailey, Roy De Forest and Mel Ramos, is energetic and eclectic in the Natsoulas/Novelozo tradition.

Work by 48 artists is included and the top award, a one-person show, went to Dan Deroux for his absurdist, almost apocalyptic "Alpha Omega" (1984).

Other notable works include April Funke's untitled self-portrait, honest and direct, which has tilting bones but reveals the pure pleasure of painting, a rare quality.

Wally B. Hedrick's "Artweak," a large oil, is a humorous attack, again employing the obvious

Northern California pun, on art criticism, the art establishment and judging from the classical Greek subject, on art history itself.

There's a wide range of work to enjoy from Lisa Levine's mixed media collage of bras to Jeff Walker's clever "Spy Bible," a walkie talkie in each set to be distributed by the Gideon Society in each motel to listen in on society.

Natsoulas/Novelozo has doubled its space and the selection of work and light make it worth seeing. The large exhibition will be open through Aug. 10.

Kay Wooldridge is an accomplished potter and her black raku pots were exhibited as part of the regional "Introductions" exhibition to focus on emerging artists.

Her works were choice. About two dozen large pieces — patterned in geometric and art deco designs in black matte and high-gloss glazes — more than filled the small Artery space.

Black charcoal drawings and paintings by L.G. Williams were exhibited at the Davis Art Center as part of the regional "Introductions" show to introduce new artists.

Night scenes were the subject with piercing round lights — headlights, stoplights, car lights, stars, moon — as the source of contrast. There was much repetition as the artist experimented with the idea. A more interesting piece for me was "Central Park" in which small, intricate, delicately colored flowers became the "lights."

Also exhibited were nearly three dozen works by summer students of Dennis Neu. Each work was framed and given adequate space to be seen without crowding.

Neu obviously took teaching art and the installation seriously. The Davis Art Center is to be congratulated for encouraging young artists and their teachers.