

TOAST

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ON DISPLAY:

Scott White of Scott White Contemporary Art

San Diego has many things going for it. We are globally known for our excellent climate, beaches, surf and culture. (The latter being a work bit of a in progress.) Culture and art are imperative to thriving metropolitan cities. Currently on the art scene, San Diego barely makes the map. With the few local galleries representing contemporary art our city does have hope.

One of the city's more well known galleries is, without a doubt, Scott White Contemporary Art. Gallery director and owner, Scott White is an established art dealer with more than 20 years of experience under his belt. He features contemporary paintings, sculptures, photography and prints from the United States, Canada and Europe. It takes extreme talent and intelligence to be able to find brilliant emerging artists, act as the voice for these artists, and advise savvy collectors willing to spend upwards of several million dollars on the artists work. This is not the glamorous business that may come to mind when one thinks of an art dealer or gallery. However, glamorous is what Scott's gallery appears to be.

White and all of his associates are focused, professional and work with a sense of urgency. Yet as focused as Scott White is, he took the time to share with us a little bit about his background, a few words for an emerging artist and his opinion on San Diego's art market.

Scott has always been surrounded by art. His mother was an antiques dealer and thus he was exposed to it at an early age. At 15, he began collecting. Kinetic sculptor George Rickey is one artist White drew early inspiration from—now he represents him. Shortly after high school he left Dearborn, Michigan to pursue a career as a musician in Los Angeles. While exploring his musical interest, White worked in an LA gallery and in 1982, his work and interests moved him to San Diego and into a downtown loft (long before loft living became cool).

In the early nineties, White opened his very first gallery, SOMA, in downtown San Diego. He then moved to La Jolla where the gallery was reborn as Scott White Contemporary Art. George Rickey,



Willem DeKooning, Henry Moore, and Christo & Jeann Claude are just some of the renowned artists featured in his La Jolla space. February of 2004, White made one more move to Little Italy's Kettner District, and is now poised to raise the bar of contemporary culture in San Diego. The gallery has committed itself to the promotion of emerging and mid-career artists, the majority of which are represented in the permanent collections of museums throughout the world.

Scott encourages emerging artists to "Be organized and presentable. Be professional—art is a profession and one must act as such (or at least try). Have knowledge of artists beyond what was taught in Art History courses. And act locally, think globally." On local art, White believes there is great work being produced here, however, San Diego must get past it's "Tuna Mentality." (A phrase inspired by the "frolicking dolphins," ... comical.) There is a sense of frustration from Scott on the subject of San Diego art. He believes we must gain a tighter sense of community. Work together. Consumers must support local businesses, such as galleries, boutique shops, etc. Because it is not necessary to go to Los Angeles, San Francisco, or New York to purchase unique art—the talent is here.

When asked why he remains in San Diego even though only a small percentage of his clients are here. He looks out the window of his office towards the bay; early January, sun shining, probably 70 degrees out and said "I can run my business from anywhere, I like mountain biking, and being outdoors." Enough said. ☺



Bill Armstrong Fig 79

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Upcoming Exhibitions:
Bill Armstrong Jan 13-Feb 25
Photographs from Armstrong's
ongoing "Infinity" series.
Clifford Smith Mar 3-Apr 15
Exhibition of recent ten ocean
paintings
Foon Sham Macau-born artist
recent sculptures celebrates the
artist's love of materials