

Vadim Bora

studio-gallery presents:

f a c e t s

by Constance E. Richards

Asheville's newest gallery Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery allows a peek inside the artist's "kitchen". Visitors to the studio-gallery may happen upon the artist painting, sculpting, or sketching in the second-floor studio, above Artworks and Framing.

Though sleek and airy galleries abound in the Asheville area, a studio-gallery is a particular

treat, enabling visitors to glimpse a bit of the lifeblood of an artist. The tang of oil paint and turpentine scent the air, empty frames lean stacked together against a far wall. Paint brushes line the window sill, piles of sketches lie atop a work table, and new paintings emerge on the walls almost daily. They are a part of the opening exhibition, titled simply "FACETS".

In "FACETS" Bora displays his multitude of talents in the new environment of the studio-gallery. The exhibition is part retrospective, part brand-new works

created specifically for the show. Charcoal drawings, pencil sketches, pen and ink drawings, oil paintings, sculptures, and jewelry designs—all have been created by Bora since he moved to the United States in 1993 from North Ossetia in the Caucasus Mountains of southern Russia.

Bora is already known for his ability to work in a variety of media. When asked what kind of an artist he considers himself, he replies, "I can't put an '-ist' on myself (realist, abstractionist, impressionist, etc.). I don't want to control or limit these abilities by putting a label on them." In some ways, when looking around Bora's studio and seeing the vastly differing styles and material which he uses, what comes to mind is a gifted actor who slips into different roles. As an actor is cast as a variety of



"Dragonfly"

characters, the artist casts himself into any form of art which bring his ideas to life.

In "FACETS", works of different media abound, each seeming to be the medium in which Bora has worked all his life. Classically trained in the European school of painting and sculpting, Bora explains, "Having been immersed in art ever since I can remember and having received a strict technological education, it has given me the strength to never feel any boundaries between media.

"Studying sculpture provided me with the feeling of weight and form, jewelry design gave me the discipline of completion, tens of thousands of sketches all my life gave me freedom with lines, and natural artistry helped fuse these abilities together. Now I don't have to think about how to do something, but what to do first. The problem is, how does one succeed in carrying out so many ideas? There's not enough time!"

The newest work of Bora's exhibition, envisions woman as symbol of life, woven into the cosmic fabric of air, water, fire, sun, and earth. A robust female figure jumps into water, the icy-blue reflecting on her skin; another jumps over fire,

embers glowing beneath her, recalling pagan rituals; another emerges from the sea with dragonflies fluttering on her fingers. "Wild Apple Tree" finds a nude ensconced amidst the apple-covered branches of a tree, shaking with all her might in wild abandon to loosen the ripest apples from the boughs. The composition is the marriage of the human form with nature.

Bora's portraits differ from those which seem air-brushed into commercialized perfection. The true character of each individual model radiates from the canvas, many of the faces Ashevilleans will recognize as their neighbors, portrayed with the bold brush strokes of a consummate professional. These varied works are celebrated with the opening of "FACETS", taking place in the studio gallery, downstairs in Artworks and Framing, and in the neighboring Out 'n About offices which will display Bora's graphics.

Vadim Bora Studio Gallery is open to the public on Sundays and by appointment, or a knock on the door. The artist's work is also shown in the Artworks and Framing shop below the studio-gallery.

INFORMATION:

Grand Opening

Introducing: "FACETS"

Friday, November 19, 1999, 6:00-9:00 pm

Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery

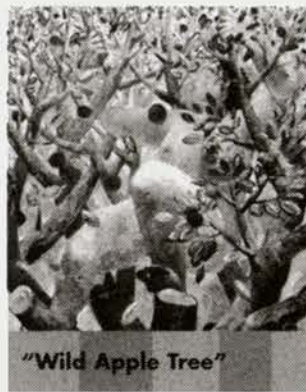
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"Tanya"



"Wild Apple Tree"



"The Warm Evening"