

Local artist selected for show in Chicago

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One of the pieces Joe MacGown of Starkville is most known for has been accepted for the 2010 Energy Art Salon.

The exhibition will run from January 15-February 25, 2010, at Murphy Hill Gallery, in the historic Sears & Roebuck building in Chicago. The opening reception will be from noon until 11 p.m. January 16.

MacGown's inclusion in the show resulted from being a finalist in the traditional painting category in the international online Energy Art Salon Competition 2009 sponsored by the Energy Art Movement.

His entry, "Zabulation," is a mixed media watercolor and ink painting. Additionally, a detailed pen and ink drawing entitled "Out of the Fold" was accepted for the show.

"The driving force of 'Zabulation' was to show that all things are interconnected, with all things being equally important," MacGown said. "Similar to chaos theory, I believe that everything that happens affects or is affected by something else. I envision life as a complex web of relationships and cycles. With this in mind I wanted to do a complex, highly detailed painting with flowing colors and deep layers."

MacGown said he decided to use radiating concentric shapes to represent the ever-widening circle of life showcasing various dynamic relationships such as the organic patterns of species, the cycles of life and death, and the intimate ties between animate and inanimate.

"Because I see everything as being interconnected, I do not draw a distinction between forms, but rather, picture them as flowing into one another: healthy into unhealthy, beautiful to ugly, normal to mutated, plant to animal to mineral, and physical to spiritual," MacGown said.

The goal of the Energy Art Movement is to celebrate human connections in its artwork created with its three primary values: quality, diversity, and evolution. According to their website, this year's Energy Art Salon will feature some of the finest energetic art from around the world, with one common theme - We Are Connected. A variety of traditional and new media will be showcased at this year's event.

All of MacGown's work in general fits into this group show's theme, because interconnectedness is the theme of all of his artwork.

"I strive to show that everything is connected in life, and thus, this is a perfect venue for my art," MacGown said. "Additionally, my art is produced as a result of manic flow, and I try to permeate it with my energy. When I draw or paint, my hand is moving fast and my mind is wondering in many directions. I get 'hyped' up while doing this, and I think it shows through that it is an energetic style of art."

To be chosen as a finalist in this international competition was an honor for MacGown.

"For me in particular, to be able to exhibit side by side with artists from around the world with similar ways of thinking is wonderful," MacGown said.

This is MacGown's second group show with the Energy Art Movement.

In the first showing, his detailed drawing "Echinodermatter" was included in the Green Energy Exhibition held at the Sunrise Gallery in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada from July 11 through August 2, 2009. This same drawing will be included in an upcoming book including the works of 100 international artists.

The book will be published by nEgoist Publishing Co. based in Poland and will be entitled "Imagine the Imagination, New Visions of Surrealism," and is projected to be launched January 2010.

The book aims to show the variety of contemporary surreal art from around the world including 100 works in different media: traditional painting and drawing, digital painting, fractals, photomanipulation, photography, mixed media, sculpture, traditional prints, and more.

The collection will be classified in three groups: Visions, Dreams and Nightmares, all this mental manifestation has been the source of inspiration for this revolutionary movement since the 1920s.

For more information about the work of Starkville artist, Joe MacGown, go to www.joemacgown.com

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