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Wild Women 2: Telling Tales
Every Picture Tells a Story at the Fetterly Gallery
March 20 – May 1, 2004

Vallejo – “Want to Buy Some Illusions” sings out from the portrait of Marlene Dietrich by artist Wendyn Cadden, whose paintings and prints will be featured, along with the work of five other women artists, in the new “*Wild Women 2: Telling Tales*” exhibition at the Fetterly Gallery of the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation, 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo, California. The exhibition, which opens on March 20, with a reception from 2:00 to 4:00 pm., runs through May 1, 2004. The exhibition showcases the work of San Francisco artists Nancy Calef, Keina Davis, and Vallejo artists Sarah Nichols, donnio, Dorothy Herger and Wendyn Cadden who divides her studio time between Mare Island, Vallejo and Las Vegas, New Mexico.

“*Wild Women 2: Telling Tales*” was inspired by the idea of the “visual narrative” or the story behind the image. “One of the things that I most enjoy, and find intriguing, is the whole storyline or scenario that an artist has going on in her head while she is creating an image,” remarks Celeste Smeland, executive director of the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation and exhibition curator. “It certainly isn’t necessary for the viewer to know the underlying story in order to appreciate the work, yet it is fun and often illuminating if they can share in the idea with the artist.” Many of these “stories” will be included in an artists’ book at the exhibition for viewers to read if they choose. San Francisco artist Keina Davis illustrates well the theme of “telling tales” in her paintings that she describes as “Urban Folklore.”

Davis says, “The images meld contemporary African American urban culture and history, with traditional African culture. All are centered around the journey to Sivad, a fictitious urban village where all the people are traveling to, not only physically, but also spiritually to reach a higher consciousness.” Artist Nancy Calef, also of San Francisco, uses her well-honed skills of observation of people, places and situations to tell colorful, humorous and compassionate visual tales. In many of her paintings, Calef exaggerates the storyline by employing a third dimension through breaking the plane of the canvas with sculpture and found objects.

Vallejo artist Sarah Nichols will be including a series of small “heart” paintings done specially for the exhibition that trace “the seven stages of her heart” from young girl to today. Nichols is using the unique approach of rendering each painting in the manner reminiscent of her artistic style at these different stages of her life. Completing the “wild women” circle of artists is donnio, whose one-of-a-kind digital photographic collage prints explore the interrelationship of women and the elements, the universal and personal nature of Gaia.

During the March 20th Opening Reception artist, educator and local treasure Dorothy Herger will be honored with the unveiling of a mural by Trevor Burrowes, Peter Hubbard and Sarah Nichols, entitled “Bright moments, at the beginning of lower Georgia Street, 1969” based on a photograph by Herger. Some of Herger’s paintings and ceramic sculpture are also part of the exhibition. Dorothy Herger was born in San Francisco and raised in Vallejo. She was instrumental in establishing the Art Department of Solano Community College where she taught art from 1948 to 1985. In 2000, the College acknowledged her contribution by creating the Dorothy Herger Gallery on campus. She is the former Art Director of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and Director of the American School of Pottery in Château double, France. Herger finds much of her creative inspiration from her world travels, including South and Central America, China, Japan, India, and Indonesia.

“Wild Women 2: Telling Tales” exhibition is at the Fetterly Gallery of the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation (VCAF), 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Ste. 10, Vallejo, March 20 – May, 1, 2004.

Opening Reception is Saturday, March 20, 2:00 to 4:00 pm with music by the Jazz Sisters, and catered by Napkins Personalized Catering. Gallery hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday through Saturday. For information contact VCAF at 707-648-4035;

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