

05/22/2005

Abstract Americana

By: Jessica Rosero , Current staff writer

Throughout the years, art, whether visual or literal, has allowed creative minds to unleash their emotions and thoughts to society.

For up-and-coming Hoboken-based artist Anthony Dinallo, his emotions and thoughts have long been served well on a canvas, which will exhibited for the first time at Paula's at Rigoletto's restaurant on Park Avenue in Weehawken.

Dinallo's debut exhibit entitled Abstract Americana follows the journey of his artwork, from his first pieces to the latest renditions of his focus on human intercultural relations.

"I have always viewed myself as someone who has a lot to say about life and society," said Dinallo. "These paintings all have an emotion behind them that I was releasing at the time."

Dinallo's artistic career began in his mid-teens, after his father brought home a paint set. Like most teenagers at 16, Dinallo was looking for an outlet where he could express some of the thoughts and concerns about events in his life. Painting offered that release for him, and just seemed like the right thing to do.

Developing his craft

Over the years, Dinallo started to develop a rather extensive collection of his artwork, and his skills and techniques continued to progress as well. Along with technique, Dinallo's voice and thoughts also reached new heights within his paintings.

"I view my artwork as a life's process," said Dinallo. "It's a visual journal that I will be able to look back on and remember what I was thinking."

Although polishing his craft since the age of 16, Dinallo had still not displayed his work in proper exhibitions, and only kept it within his family.

"I had a tough time deciding if I wanted to take it to the next level, and last year I felt like I needed to show it to [other] people," said Dinallo. "I figured if I'm going to talk about it, I might as well take it to the next level."

Last June, Dinallo began to participate in local art festivals such as the Hoboken Studio Art Tours. Abstract American, which is a culmination of about 15 years worth of work, is his first full-fledged exhibition on display until May 31.

"It's been a fun process of putting my best pieces together," said Dinallo. "They range from 1991 and 1992 when I first started, up until 2004. Most of these are from 2004, last year I had a real big spurt of inspiration."

The exhibit chronicles the growth of Dinallo's early pieces to his most recent. "One," which focuses on the current war in Iraq, is a more updated version of an earlier piece that focused on the Gulf War.

"I was 16 and it was my first real experience with war, and I needed a way to talk about it," said Dinallo.

Behind abstract Americana

Much of Dinallo's work is based on the contemporary characterization of human emotions such as love, loss, and even anger.

"Right now I'm trying to grow," said Dinallo. "I'm moving into the next stage of my life and trying to redefine my artwork while keeping my own style."

Dinallo's biggest influences have been surrealist impressionists such as Salvador Dali and Claude Monet, especially in the use of symbolism and color scheme. He has also studied the more recent expressionism and modernistic works of the 1980s, which includes pieces by the renowned Andy Warhol.

His use of symbolism is geared towards familiar images the public may have encountered before, and can identify with in their own ways.



DINALLO - Hoboken based artist Anthony Dinallo debuts his series Abstract Americana in his first full-fledged art exhibition at Weehawken's Paula's at Rigoletto's Restaurant running until May 31.

"[It's the feeling of] 'I've seen it before, but I don't remember'," said Dinallo. "It's trying to capture something special, and I think I'm going to start putting more of these symbols in my work."

Education

Although he did take some art courses while attending Fordham University, Dinallo graduated with a degree in psychology with a concentration in marketing, and never took extensive art training.

"I never wanted to take a particular class because I didn't want my work to be confined by someone else's theories," said Dinallo. "I have always wanted to do my own thing. For me it's trying to find that thing deep within our psyche that people can relate and respond to."

After this exhibition wraps up, Dinallo will be working on his next exhibition venue with local artist Velma Gonzalez. The two are working on setting up a street venue across the river in the SoHo area of Manhattan.

For information on Anthony Dinallo and a view of his full art collection, visit www.anthonydinallo.com, or to order works, send an e-mail to sales@anthonydinallo.com.