

ARTS & LEISURE

Harrisburg artist depicts athletic strength

Linda Ross
Capital Times Contributor

The recent Gallery Lounge exhibit, **PHYSICAL FORCES**, represented Harrisburg artist Terry Bowie's latest artistic efforts. Produced last summer, the entire collection of nineteen paintings and four sculptural relief pieces grew out of a chance discovery at a York flea market.

In his November 14 gallery talk, the artist described his delight at finding boxes of old copper engraving plates inscribed with images of weight lifters. Like many artists, Bowie draws his inspiration from found "treasures."

He had been interested in investigating the theme of athletic strength and finding the engraving plates was just the impetus he needed. The wooden relief pieces featuring the copper figures gave rise to the vigorous, colorful paintings of athletes in action.

Collaged into these acrylic and watercolor works were small pieces of printed paper. Their strategic placement added "snap" to surface and, in some cases, created grotesque or disturbing

facial "masks."

The artist explained that the public facade of the professional athlete often belies his inner anguish.

One was featured images of contemporary athletes juxtaposed with photos of primitive hunters holding spears. The contemporary athletes' javelins sliced across the paintings creating formal and metaphorical connections with the tribesmen.

Large angular fractures criss-crossed the huge acrylic triptych on the west wall, dividing it into planes of vivid colors and textures. This kalcidoscope of painterly angst was the result of a brush with death the artist experienced while swimming in the ocean last summer.

Struggling against an underow, Bowie caught glimpses of the shore lined with beach cabanas and the sails of nearby boats. The brushwork suggested swirling water, reflections of clouds and the sheer brutal forces of nature. In this work the athlete (the artist himself) competes with nature for the ultimate

trophy--his own life.

Viewed as a whole, the exhibit contained many subtle connections of both formal and symbolic significance.

For instance, the wooden relief pieces, while beautifully echoing the shapes and colors of the adjacent paintings, also asserted themselves as icons, or even trophies, as one student observer noted. Constructed of free flowing driftwood butted against precise, mechanically planed wooden forms, these assemblages contrasted raw organic material with slick products of a modern age.

Both the angular black forms and the antler-like driftwood projected menacingly into the viewers' space unlike the little two dimensional copper cutouts attached. An analogy to these contrasts could be seen in the works containing both modern athletes and primitive tribesmen.

The exhibit offered the possibility for multiple interpretations. Mr. Bowie himself only hinted at the possible meanings in his talk. This reluctance to offer detailed explanations is common

among artists who want their work to speak for itself or to be interpreted according to the personal experiences of the viewer.

Athletics offer, among other things, an outlet for aggression and competitiveness. In this reviewer's opinion, the exhibit was, at least in part, about this institutionalized aggression.

Bowie isolates his athletes from the specificity of time and place. However, they are not rendered as vague, distant forms. With forceful gestural brushwork and bright, aggressive colors, he invokes the athletes' presence and captures the dynamic, colorful spirit of the game. At the same time, he obstructs the fluid linear flow of paint with random intrusions of magazine scraps. Perhaps in these juxtapositions he suggests the dual nature of the media hero.

Terry Bowie is head of the art department at the Harrisburg Academy. He has exhibited his work in many state and regional shows including several of the State Museum's annual juried exhibits of contemporary Pennsylvania artists' work where he has won honors.

Kathy's kitchen

Exercise proper judgment over holidays

Kathleen Rickabaugh
Capital Times Staff

As the holiday season is upon us, there will be parties to give and parties to attend. "Eat drink and be merry!" but "Know when to say When!"

Here are a few helpful hints on hosting or attending a party.

First, **hosting a party**. After all the decorations have been placed--mistletoe, too--let's plan the party. Most important is to serve food. Foods can range from fresh veggies and dip and fresh fruit (for the health conscious), chips and dip, cheese and crackers, finger sandwiches, fondu's, and let's not forget--cookies! There should be a variety of food and lots of it.

Next, let's discuss what to offer as **beverages**. If you serve an alcoholic punch, watch out how much of the hard stuff you use. White wine and eggnog with nutmeg, are nice. If you don't like rum or alcohol in your eggnog, try a drop or two of peppermint extract and serve with a candy cane. Have coffee, tea or cocoa on hand too.

Since you are hosting the party, you are responsible for your friends. "Friends don't let friends drive drunk!"

If you are **attending a gala affair**, remember to eat and drink in moderation. I want to see your smiling face in the spring! About one drink an hour is recommended (32 ounces in one hour is not what I mean). Eat! Don't drink on an empty stomach.

You should enjoy the party, not wake up

the next morning wondering if you had fun, and worse yet feeling like you've been hit by a mack truck.

My recipe this month has been a tradition in my household for years. I hope you enjoy it.

Poppy Seed Coffee Cake

Soak: 2 ounces of poppy seeds in 1 cup buttermilk.

Cream: 1 cup butter with 1-1/2 cups sugar. Add 4 egg yolks and beat well (save egg whites).

Sift: 2-1/2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt (opt).

Mix alternately dry ingredients with the poppy seed mixture.

Beat: egg whites until stiff.

Add: 1 teaspoon almond extract and beaten egg whites to batter.

Grease well an angel food cake pan.

Pour 1/2 batter in the greased cake pan.

Mix in a separate bowl: 1/2 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon.

Sprinkle 1/2 of the sugar/cinnamon on top of the batter.

Pour the remaining batter in pan and sprinkle the rest of the sugar/cinnamon mixture on top.

With a butter knife, stir the batter from the bottom of the pan upwards to make a swirl within the coffee cake (do not scrape the bottom of the pan).

Bake at 350* for 1 hour or until a knife comes out clean when inserted.

Let cool for 10 minutes then remove from the pan.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday!

Check your horoscopes

Kelly Jo Lieberman
Capital Times Staff

SAGITTARIUS (the archer/Nov. 22-Dec.21)--you are pointed in the right direction. Focus on work the next couple of days. Money once lost may now be regained. Taurus individuals involved.

CAPRICORN (the goat/Dec. 22-Jan 19)--Family relations can be beneficial for future endeavors. You will have an unexpected visitor; be prepared! Highlight days are the 12th and 14th.

AQUARIUS (water bearer/Jan 20-March 20)--Get together with some old friends. You are energetic, spirited, spontaneous and daring once the moon lines up with your planet this month.

ARIES (the ram/March 21-Apr. 19)--You are the center of attention (don't ruin it by lip synching) at a social event. Romance, sex appeal and love are highlighted. Beware of financial affairs on the 8th and 9th.

TAURUS (the bull/Apr. 20-May 20)--Don't be stubborn! Those who know you best will not let you get away with it. Honesty is stressed. See Sagittarius message.

GEMINI (the twins/May 21-June 21)--Get some sleep. Get a haircut. Drill! Take a shower. Get your own computer paper. Get a job. Get a Hoover. Fix your car. Start wearing your own underwear. Seek professional help. Try shock therapy. Just get a real life!

CANCER (the crab/June 22-July 22)--Don't let studying bring you down. Try playing some Pat Boone Christmas albums while you look over your notes for an anatomy class.

LEO (the lion/July 23-Aug. 22)--Exercise is the best way to release tension. Exercise tip: use weights while working out (lifting your pencil while

doing homework doesn't count), be sure to work all body parts (get your mind out of the gutter), and make sure you are properly warmed up before your workout (this does not mean turning the heat up and inviting your friends over to enjoy your personal sauna!)

VIRGO (the virgin/Aug. 23-Sept. 22)--You need to relax. Loosen up! Try sucking on a cherry Blow Pop to help stimulate your memory while taking a history exam.

LIBRA (the scale/Sept. 23-Oct. 23)--Schedule your time accordingly next week. Do not procrastinate on Christmas shopping; old ladies are ruthless at Christmas time. Notice the lazy tongue.

SCORPIO (the scorpion/Oct. 24-Nov. 21)--A mysterious phone call could send you on a wild goose chase. (Phone tag, you're it!) Watch out for the brown beaver with the yellow hat. But whatever you do, never let them see you sweat!

Feed Your Brain Finals Week

...at the Lion's Den For Only \$.99! Featuring 2 Eggs-n-Toast. Coffee is also only \$.25! Good Luck on Finals and Congratulations Graduates!