

PSH NEWS

Artist focuses on nature's dualities

Celia Fox
Capital Times Staff

They say men don't dream in color, but through Sept. 27, Brian Hoover's work in the Gallery Lounge will give the lie to this old saw.

"The woods used to be full of magic," Hoover said, "but science has explained [the magic] away. They're just trees that can be cut down and animals that can be killed. Science has explained away religion, too."

Using jewel-toned gouaches and gold, Hoover succeeds in bringing an element of magic and spirituality back into the world. Tender-eyed Byzantine saints

brood over environmental ruin. Fantasy forests gleam behind a vane of the falling Skylab. The child of hope rests in the arms of the angel of death, holding a seed that may heal the huge wound in the sky.

The mysterious art draws the connections between past and present, good and evil, by combining images in seemingly random manner. Hoover uses what he calls "the kamikaze approach to design," starting with a splash of color. He experiments, mixing, tilting the canvas, misting it with water, using fans to vary the spread of pigment.

Yet this is not work of the splatter-and-drip school. Hoover carefully, realistically overpaints the images that

he sees in the mists of color. Sometimes, the original splash is nearly covered by the later images, as in the Samasra, where only a bit of red background recalls the beginning of the work. In others, like Johnny Appleseed, the vivid orange cloud becomes an important element in the overall composition.

Samsara focuses on a spiny sunburst of gold, cradling a larvae or worm in its heart. The Madonna-faced woman calmly cups her hands around it as Death leans in from the shadows. But does the worm infest the light or does the light emanate from the worm? Hoover leaves the decision to us.

The Flight from Sunbury series of

etchings and gouache features a spotted horse that Hoover has come to feel as a symbolic self-portrait. It flees the ordinary world, wolves nipping at its heels, heading for mystical golden woods in the background.

Animals through his paintings, as symbols and as players in the mini-dramas he reveals to us.

"I never want to tell the full story," he said. Viewers have to complete the narrative in their own way."

And we do, moving from discomfort through confusion to grace, matching our own stories with his pictures along the way.

Job market bleak for grads and alumni

While most economists now think the recession has ended, a cursory survey of college placement offices might tell a quite different tale. An annual survey by Michigan State U. of over 500 companies earlier this year found that the number of openings for college grads is expected to decrease by about 10 percent from 1990. That follows a 13 percent decrease from 1989.

Adding to the woes of the current batch of college grads are the legions of alumni who've also fallen victim to the most recent economic downturn. Many of those alumni, say campus career placement officials, are returning to campus for inexpensive and, in some cases, quite effective help securing another position. Alumni association officials see the services as one more

way to signal the ties that bind alums to their institution.

But the alum's return means that competition for the existing number of openings can intensify, especially if both groups compete for the same interview slots. Not surprisingly, MSU's survey showed that about 65 percent of employers thought recent grads should be willing to accept entry-level positions for which they were over-qualified.

Placement officials agree that the days when students could confidently expect a job offer are long gone. Maurice Mayberry, director of the U. of Florida's Career Resource Center, says the situation has worsened over the past year.

"If you talked to students last fall,"

says Mayberry, "they were running scared. And if you talk to them now they're in a panic." And, Mayberry adds, it's not just students who are concerned. "It's on the minds of the students, the administrators, and the mothers and fathers," he says. "It's a serious business."

Carolyn Hennings, career services director at Santa Clara U., says her office charges alums \$100 for access to resources, including unlimited personal

counseling and testing, and \$40 if counseling isn't required.

Those charges haven't deterred alums from using her office, Hennings says. "Only a small percentage of alums have used our office," she says, "but it's been growing lately as the economy worsens."

Georgia Institute of Technology offers specific services for its alums. Tech's Alumni Placement Service sponsors an annual job fair for alumni.

IN THE GALLERY LOUNGE ...

Thru September 27

Paintings, Prints and Drawings by Brian Hoover
Symbolic, mystical images based on nature's qualities

September 30 - November 22

Photographs by Alida Fish
Her own fantastic, preternatural ecosystem

November 25 - January 31

Mixed Media Work by Dan Burns and Milt Friedly
Friedly's exhibit includes ceramic wall pieces and other mixed media pieces. Burns' complex multi-layered paintings reflect his intense interest in art as process.

Gallery Lounge, Olmsted Building

Mon. - Thurs.	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. & Sun.	Closed

Hillcrest
Women's Medical Center
--HARRISBURG
Abortion

Twilight Sleep & Local Anesthesia
First Trimester & Mid-Trimester
Early Pregnancy Tests
Pregnancy Counseling
Birth Control

1-800-245-2040
234-4994 **843-0911**

2709 N. FRONT ST.
HARRISBURG

742 S. GEORGE ST.
YORK


