

COMPLIMENTS PAID AT FRANK BETTE

6/9/17 - 8/5/17

by Karen Braun Malpas

To compliment a person is to say something nice to or about them that makes them feel good about themselves. In the world of art, complementary colors exist opposite each other on the color wheel and make each other look good. Red is opposite green so the red ballerina blossoms of Margaret Fago's "Red Begonia" are enhanced by their green leaves. Similarly, because purple and yellow are opposite each other on the color wheel, Mike Gifford's golden honey bee looks more so because of the lavender flower from which it sips.

This notion of opposites is handled differently in Ron Millers photo "Jelly Bean Square" which presents aesthetic contrast between a column of faded terra cotta and aqua which evokes ancient Egypt against a flat, commercial, modern blue.

Bonnie Randall Boller shows an evocative altered photo "The In Between" which suggests both the gloaming, a time between day and night, and also a dialogue between the sky above and water below a horizon line. They reflect each other. In Charles Lucke's pale, hushed photo "Peace Nook" the softness of a dove is played against the hardness of the rock in which it seeks refuge.

Paul Feinberg shows four little diptychs, each consisting of two matching parts. The two halves extend and complete each other. In one case, the glowing orb of sun is even bisected. Occasionally, even his technique is twofold...he applies acrylic paint as fat and juicy as oil and as dilute and transparent as watercolor.

Susan Lea Hackett's quilt, "My Own Island" seems like a kaleidoscope image of paradise, the garden of Eden or the nearly manic joy the artist feels in occupying this utterly beautiful world of ours.

In the backroom, Kris Warrenburg has a solo watercolor show of "Landscapes: East & West." It's interesting how moving the horizon line up or down the page to allow for more or less sky changes our feeling about where in that land we find ourselves. To describe the many moods and textures of tree and water, Warrenburg mixed many different greens and blues warm and cool variations of each. The tiniest picture, "Little Boat" seems to embody what is best in watercolor, touched as little as possible and utilizing an aspect of happy accident built into this aqueous medium.

Midshow Reception for the COMPLEMENT show is Friday, July 14, 7-9 pm

Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Paru@ Lincoln, Alameda, Ca. Thurs.- Sun.11-5

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