

Lifting the veil between nature and spirit / What's in a name?

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

By Meg Daly

Lifting the veil between nature and spirit

To walk into an exhibit of works by Jane Rosen is to loosen one's footing in time and place. Her delicate studies of hawks and hand-blown, pigmented glass renderings of the raptors evoke ancient Egypt. Paintings and drawings of wildlife and horses transport the viewer to a contemporary Lascaux cave, where images of animals take on totemic, storytelling power. New work by Rosen will be featured at a month-long solo exhibition at Tayloe Piggott Gallery, opening Thursday. "This show is about seeing what I see in nature," Rosen said.



The California-based artist is originally from New York City. She got her start in the New York art world where she was a rising star, but a trip to Northern California changed her course. She was transfixed by the natural world she found on the West Coast. Her sculptures of "Pale Male," the famous Central Park red-tailed hawk, allow her to blend her two worlds and also comment on the enigma of animal nature. "He represents the ability to navigate two worlds, two natures, two ways of being," Rosen said. "I think he's the best piece I've made in my whole life."

Like her Renaissance heroes, Rosen excels at diverse media, including drawing, sculpture, painting, printmaking and glass blowing. She said it took her 12 years to learn to work with the particular glass and pigment of "Pale Male" and her other raptors. The complex skill involved in blowing one of her birds puts her in an elite group of artists. When her piece "Indian Red" was chosen for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Rosen was thrilled. "I feel like I represented America and the end of a war."

Jane Rosen opening, 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Tayloe Piggott Gallery. Free. 733-0555.

What's in a name?

Don't worry, I'm not going to touch the controversy spawned by a columnist of this paper last year over the name of, ahem, the Art Fair, except to say that perhaps the problem lies in the word "fair," which brings to mind, alternately, ladies in bonnets, baby goats and debates over justice. Whatever.

The main thing is that for three days this weekend, artists of various persuasions set up stands in Miller Park, creating a cornucopia of visual delights – all for sale to the public. No matter what we call it, the Art Fair is a Jackson Hole tradition.

Art Fair Jackson Hole, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 pm., Sunday, Miller Park. \$3. 733-6379.

'Pale-Male' by Jane Rosen, hand blown pigmented glass and limestone.

Published online at: http://www.planetjh.com/music_arts_culture/Article.aspx?ArticleID=107493