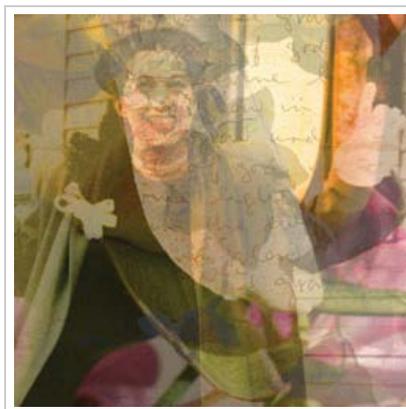




A Ho Ho Happening!

Pomona Arts Colony kicks off the season with compelling and kitschy art

By: [Stacy Davies](#)



It may not officially be winter yet (that would be Dec. 22), but the Pomona Arts Colony has rolled out a combination of shows to usher in the holiday month that features everything from funky Christmas camp to poignant social observation. Always ones for dancing along the kooky edge, Bunny Gunner Gallery presents the nostalgic ceramics of Molly Schulps in the folklore-with-a-twist exhibit, "Santaland." There's really nothing more politically incorrect these days than smoking, and Schulps' Santa mugs with rolled-up tobacco (or greener crop) dangling from his lips are a welcome change to wholesome rosy cheeks or unnerving Playboy flirtation figurines. There's a matching ashtray, as well, and a horde of shiny, glazed trees of all sizes that no home is complete without. Schulps' tyke-sized frosty-blue Abominable Snowman in the gallery window is also utterly groovy and needs to be in my living room, please.

Next door at the EVE Gallery, satirical off-the-wall illustrations take over in "Pomonamation," skewering everything from political candidates to children's cartoons; see Jose Cabrera's Scooby *literally* skewered and cooked snack-ready for his famished teenaged paranormal detective friends who've apparently all been marooned on a desert island, and get a kick out of his modern-day take on Popeye's mooching pal Wimpy as he gets the burger beaten out of him in a back alley by commercial fat-food icons, Ronald McDonald, Jack Box and the Burger King.

Back in the world of the literal, Joseph Todorovitch's "A View of Pomona" at the Metro Gallery presents masterful realist paintings of regular townfolk engaged in daily activities or repose such as bicycling, spot cleaning, hair styling and lounging on the porch. Exceptionally rich in color and detail, Todorovitch's technical skill places him far ahead of the naturalist pack.

Combining realism with the abstractions of the subconscious, Andi Campognone Project's back gallery hosts Nancy Macko's "Hopes & Dreams: A Visual Memoir," a stunning collection of digital collages that document the artist's perceptions of her mother as she sank into dementia. Likening the loss of memory to the calving of glaciers (when enormous chunks of ice break off, float away and often disappear beneath the surface), the centerpiece of Macko's imagery alternates between two photographs taken of her mother as a young woman at the "threshold of her adult life." Surrounded and often obscured by digitally reproduced handwritten notes, artifacts and mementos, the artworks are a kaleidoscope of memory, awash in color and laden with symbolism, eliciting a poignant emotional response to both their beauty and their heartbreak.

There are more shows to see, including a member's exhibit at the SCA Project Gallery, "Barking Up the Wrong Tree," where you'll find Sharon Suhovy's earthy peach tree branch sculpture and Karen Pollitt's humorous Godzilla sculpture made from foam packing noodles, as well as more cartoon illustrations at the PB & J Gallery. Likewise, don't miss the lustrous porcelain painting of Cindy Moore in the Hole in the Wall Gallery, a tiny spot reserved in an alley inlet between Thomas and Main streets that serves as an alternative mini-spot for art, this time with Moore's exquisite work lighting it up like a grand showroom.

www.bunnygunner.com; www.metropomona.com; www.andicampognone.com; www.scagallery.com. All shows run thru Jan. 7.

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