

## The Exhibitionist: Figured Out

Read More: [Community](#),

by **Maureen Davidson** on Nov 03, 2010

A A A

5 Comments

Share



Detail from David Lebow's 'Eyeball Attack.'

Human eyes are drawn to it first, irresistibly, no matter what the vista. Some anthropologists say that our popular culture is obsessed with, even worships it. We certainly know nothing quite as completely as we know it: the human figure. That quadri-limbed shape dances along the roofs of caves, the unmistakable mark of humankind from the time our species harnessed fire and hunted with pointed sticks. We know it so well that, with only a hint, a figure becomes a story—a woman gleefully dances, a man runs away fearfully, two estranged people long for union—the essence of a gesture can be conveyed in a few strokes of a pen, a simple shape. We also know immediately when there's something not quite right. That's why working from the figure is the staple of every art school in the Western world. The National Figurative Show at the Santa Cruz Art League attracted submissions from artists nationwide. I was impressed with every ceramic sculpture represented, and remembered that figurative work surprisingly dominated the national Ceramics Annual in San Francisco a few months ago. Kimberly Cook's *Marriage of Heaven and*

*Hell* could have lived happily among that "best of the best" crowd. Her gasp-inducing dream—or nightmare—figure that morphs into a house that totters on a Rococo-ish base is a marvel of technique within a dynamic composition, all perfect glistening reds and lustrous gold glazes as counterpoint for flatter, unearthly whites. Fred Yokel built the charmingly abstracted voluminous leaning torso of *How'd This Happen?* with flattened coils so crisp and defined that the coils themselves become the story within a spot-on gesture. The rich surfaces of both of his sculptures here draw the eye into the works, as elegant as they are droll. Julia Field provokes a different response with her children at play, notably *Ready or Not*, first by sculpting them with knowing restraint, then painting a world on a leg, a skirt, a torso. Every style is represented on the wall. Two oils by Ros Bowns, especially *Knee*, are meticulously rendered then blown apart in a Francis Bacon-like distortion. The distinctive expressionistic style of Sefla Joseph and Ursula O'Farrell invigorates the room. Hsuan-Che Chen's airy realism is sparkingly deployed in *Drifting* while Burt Levitski and Clark Louis Gussin hearken to the Flemish Masters in their deep, meticulously rendered luminosity. W. Downey Dyer's impressionistic boys on the beach is charming while Annie Murphy-Robinson's *Dordogne* uses charcoal like a carving chisel. Charles Prentiss' sure touch radiates in *Hilda*. Mei-Ying Dell'Aquila's *Health Care* has all the wild boldness of a monumental mural while Dave Lebow uses an Ash Can School looseness to create amazing mythical tales. So many stories, so little room... Read more of The Exhibitionist at [www.kusp.org](http://www.kusp.org).

A A A

5 Comments

Share

### Comments (5)

#### [Post a comment](#)

**FarmerAngie24**

Mon, Dec 05, 2011 - 9:51 am

Set your own life time easier get the [business loans](#) and all you want.

[Reply to this comment](#)

**bpxdesgqf**

Wed, Dec 07, 2011 - 7:51 am

xsjGFP [nsrxumfmoav](#), [bkmsqbygpnuv](#), [[link=http://nibspoaribxw.com/](http://nibspoaribxw.com/)]/[nibspoaribxw/](#)[[link](#)], <http://hsxatcgmcert.com/>

[Reply to this comment](#)

**academic writing service**

Thu, Dec 08, 2011 - 1:31 am

*The Land of Nod*  
Decorated room décor ideas.  
[shop LANDOFNOD.COM](http://shop.LANDOFNOD.COM)

**Water Star Motors**  
*Import Car Specialists*  
Your Serene, Green Auto Repair Team

Free WiFi  
Schedule Online  
Honest Evaluations  
No Tax October  
831-457-0996

AAA Approved Auto Repair

2012 SANTA CRUZ  
**RESTAURANT WEEK**

SantaCruz.com  
**GIVEAWAYS** WIN STUFF!  
DINING, MUSIC, EVENTS & MORE!

Ads by Google

[2012 Art Schools Near You](#)

Find 2012 Local & Online Colleges. Enter Your Zip & Find Schools Now!  
[Colleges.CampusCorner.com](#)

[Creative Writing Bachelor](#)

Create Compelling Stories and Bring them to Life! Full Sail University.  
[www.FullSail.edu](http://www.FullSail.edu)

[Paintings For Sale-](#)

Original Quality Acrylic Landscapes 10% Off With This Ad! Code 10OFF  
[www.etsy.com/shop/TreedCreations](http://www.etsy.com/shop/TreedCreations)

I choose working with custom essay writers writing service, they have done my high-grade papers. The work is superb and I will be back, be sure. Propose, all of you to use this service!

[Reply to this comment](#)

**writing service**

Thu, Dec 08, 2011 - 1:31 am

Do you know, I really wish I were like you, just because you perform a cool topic. Previously I purchased the essays for sale at the essay writing service. But from now I had a possibility to use your outcome.

[Reply to this comment](#)

**academic paper writing services**

Thu, Dec 08, 2011 - 1:31 am

I am not too indolent to accomplish an essay paper. I just have got less time for sitting at the library. So, I have to turn to the english writing service to buy term essays, which are accomplished by professional writing specialists. I do know that different students cannot exist without writing support.

[Reply to this comment](#)

## Post a comment

Name: \*

Email: \*

Message: \*

Remember my personal information

Notify me of follow-up comments?

Submit the word you see below:  
Is January a "year" or a "month"? (5 characters required)

[Canvas Art Gallery](#)

Affordable Original Canvas Art. Los Angeles Art Gallery  
www.artspacewarehouse.com



**Fab is  
Everyday  
Design.**  
Unique, vintage  
furniture

**Fab.** [Shop Now!](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [List Your Business](#) | [List Your Event](#)