

Gallery is nexus of local, foreign art

BY THOMAS LEUPOLD – published: Wednesday March 31, 1999
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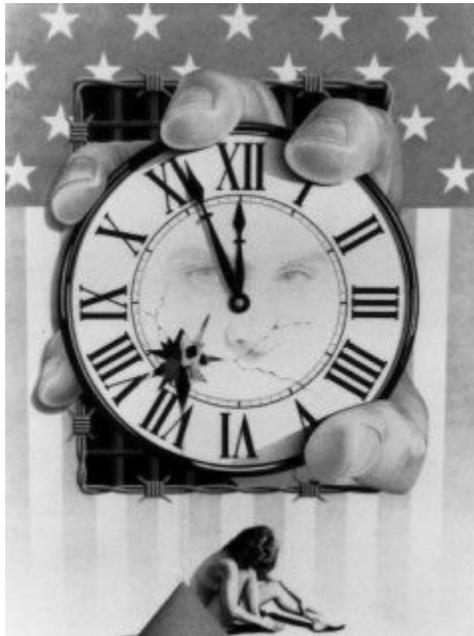
...At Palo Alto's La Galerie Internationale the mundane meets the majestic. Humorous paintings share space with disturbing sculptures of writhing human body parts. It's all part of the "New Visions" exhibit, which runs through April 15. Owner Bernard Renot said the common theme among these very different pieces is springtime. But wander through the gallery and you'll find the exhibit cannot be so neatly summed up by a single word. Artists from all over the world converge in this unassuming Palo Alto art gallery. Some bring pain, some bring whimsy and some simply are.

Art is so often more than just a pretty picture, it's about self expression and evoking emotion. In the gallery, no artist makes a clearer statement than William Noguera.

Noguera is a death row inmate at San Quentin who discovered his artistic talent, after being convicted in 1988 for the murder of his girlfriend's mother.

Noguera pieces are unquestionably powerful. He uses a technique called pointillism, in which the picture is made up of millions of tiny black dots, which, when seen from a distance, form an image. Noguera's pictures are rich in detail and some of his works take up to 300 hours to create.

The subject matter expresses some of his concerns and emotions: Regret, pain, violence, the desire for freedom and the specter of death. While Noguera's nefarious past can easily over-shadow the pictures, making them a curiosity, the quality of the craftsmanship allows them to stand on their own and Noguera's situation helps put them in context...



"New Visions" continues through April 15 at La Galerie Internationale at 370 California Ave. in Palo Alto.
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