

What's Happening



STARBURY STARBURY NIGHT

OUR THREE-PAGE PREVIEW OF THE OSCARS

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Aschheim sculptures lend charm to decay

By REGINA HACKETT
PI ART CRITIC

Animals begin dying on the cellular level, which is where Deborah Aschheim represents them.

This New Jersey sculptor makes clunky spores, cracked halos and unraveling coils that look like cells of a life form rapidly (and carelessly) approaching its demise. Ranging from palm-size to an arm's span, they hang in clusters from the ceiling and rise languidly from the floor at Suyama Space, serving as the latest in a series of exhibits curated there by Beth Sellars.

Aschheim uses wooden armatures covered in gelpcaps, baby bottle nipples or silk. Most are smeared with a drippy yellow epoxy that suggests both devil-may-care excess and interior decay. The charm she delivers is cheap to the core, but it manages to make elegance seem stuffy.

Amir Zaki is a young Los Angeles artist whose photographs look as if he didn't take them.

What human could have? Maybe pigeons view the world in this unfathomably blank way. Casting their beady eyes down long, narrow stretches of nighttime Los Angeles, they wouldn't be compelled to order the experience into a composition.

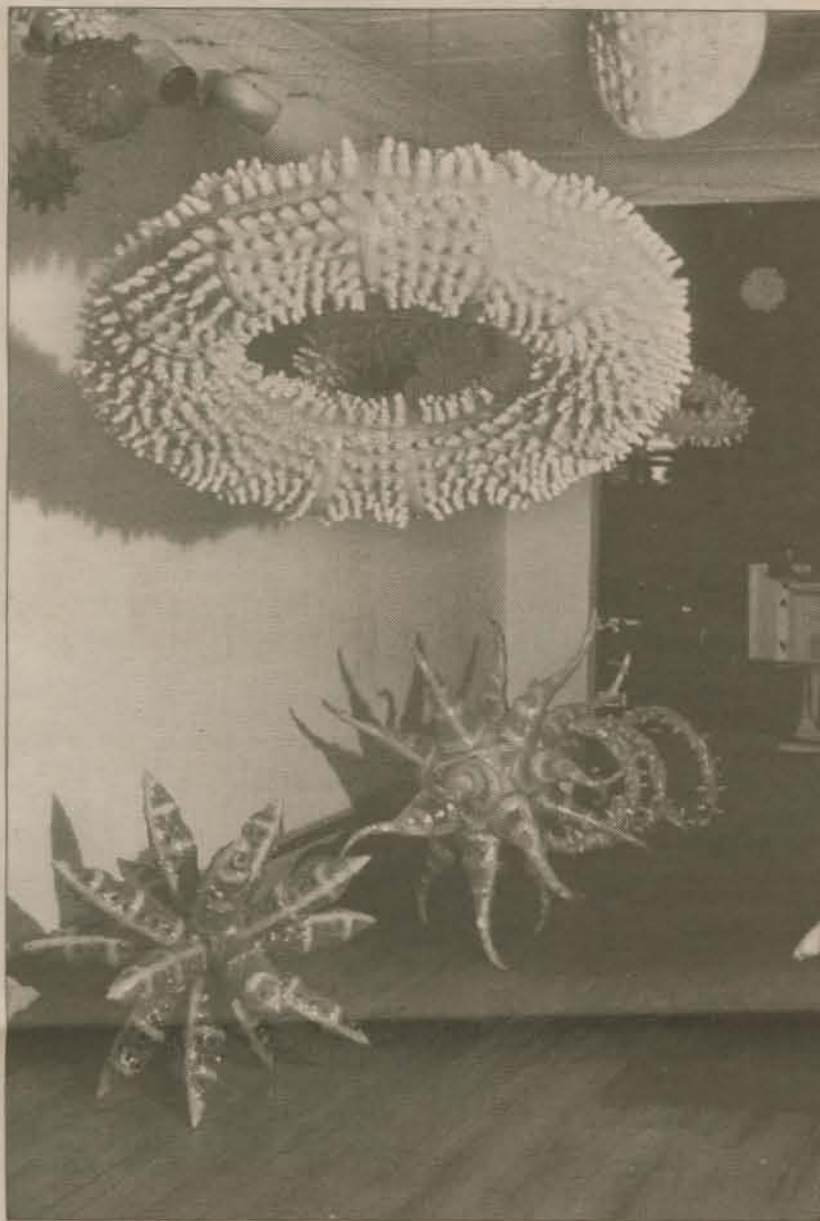
This peculiar lack of coherence makes these colored prints at the James Harris Gallery fiercely compelling. If a neutron bomb fell, leaving structures intact and eliminating people, Los Angeles would look just as Zaki sees it: devoid of our presence but not yet free from our design.

Street lights on timers would continue to flash on and off for awhile, and trees would continue to grow without cracking their concrete containers.

The instant we're gone, however, the meaning we've imposed on our surroundings would disappear with us. What Zaki has found is a disconcerting new way to distance us from ourselves.

Several years ago, Seattle's Ken Kelly painted himself into a corner. His current exhibit at Howard House demonstrates how thoroughly he has painted himself out of it.

No longer is the illustrative element choking the life out of his visual impulse. There's nothing formulaic about his new abstractions, represented by three large oil-on-canvas paintings.



New Jersey sculptor Deborah Aschheim's creations, such as "Evenflo," above, depict life forms decomposing at the cellular level.

ART REVIEW

■ **Deborah Aschheim** at Suyama Space, 2324 Second Ave. Through May 7. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 206-256-0809.

■ **Amir Zaki** at James Harris Gallery, 309A Third Ave. S. Through April 2. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 206-903-6220.

■ **Ken Kelly** at Howard House, 2017 Second Ave. Through April 1. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 206-256-6392.

■ **Italo Scanga** at Bryan Ohno Gallery, 155 S. Main St. Through March 31. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 206-667-9572.

It's a small show that doesn't feel small. The paintings play off each other and fill the room, connecting through contained exuberance and challenging each other's figure/ground relationships.

"Burn" is a stylized, vaguely Japanese version of upside-down hellfire. A blackened mass of reds descends through space in crimped yet unruly waves. Beneath it is wrecked air, with blue and pink patterns smothered by thick whites.

The other paintings amplify and subvert this one, making for an usually lively viewing experience.

Italo Scanga lives in San Diego but maintains strong Northwest ties, as he provided the north end of the glass art experiment during the founding of Pilchuck Glass School in the 1970s.

For Scanga, any visual X equals any visual Y. With rough grace, he forces the elements of his assemblage sculpture and acrylic paintings to get along. Unfortunately, it's been years since his work looked good in its own company.

As one artist among many in a group show, he can look brilliant. At Bryan Ohno, a solo venture, that brilliance wears thin.

Scanga comes up with one good piece and repeats it to death. A small bronze with a mottled blue patina titled "Snail and Spoon" is a case in point. It's gorgeous, with seamless conjunctions of unlikely forms.

Beside it are four also-rans, similar but vastly inferior. If this show were one-tenth its present size and well selected, it would be terrific.

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On display

Check mark indicates show of special merit, designated by Regina Hackett, P-I art critic.

Art institutions

■ **BELLEVUE ART MUSEUM** — 301 Bellevue Square, third floor. "First Descent: Art and Artifacts From Snowboard Culture," works by various artists and "Mountain Desire," works by Guy Anderson, Kenneth Callahan and others. Through April 22. Admission \$3; \$2 seniors and students; Tuesdays and children 12 and younger free. Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 425-454-3322; www.bellevueart.org

■ **FRYE ART MUSEUM** — Terry Ave. and Cherry St. "Primitive Mysteries," works by Lisa Zwerling. Through May 7. "Donald Barton: An American Abroad," black-and-white photographs of prewar Europe. Through April 9. "This Tranquil Land: Hudson River Paintings From the Hersen Collection," through April 16. "A Rumination of Bovidae," 22 cattle paintings from the museum's founding collection. Through Dec. 31. "Hats Off to the Year 2000," works by various Washington students, grades K-12. Through March 27. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (until 9 p.m. Thursdays); Sundays, noon-5 p.m. 206-622-9250; www.fryeart.org

■ **HENRY ART GALLERY** — 15th Ave. N.E. and N.E. 41st St. "The Henry Collects: Video," with Sam Taylor-Wood's "Hysteria," March 24-April 23. "Shifting Ground: Transformed Views of the American Landscape," works by Ansel Adams, Ralph Albert Blakelock, Morris Graves, Frederick Childs Hassam, Winslow Homer, William Henry Jackson and others. Through Aug. 20. "Banks in Pink and Blue," sculptural installation and social critique about genetics and the ownership of DNA, by Inigo Mangano-Ovalle. Through April 16. Museum admission \$5; \$3.50 seniors; students and children ages 13 and younger free; free admission Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. 206-543-2280; www.henryart.org

■ **MUSEUM OF NORTHWEST ART** — 121 S. First St., La Conner. "Journey, Part I: Spring With Machine Age Noise," paintings and sculptures by Morris Graves, and "Self Contained," glass sculpture by John Buck. Through May 28. Admission \$3. Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 360-466-4446; museumofnwart.org

■ **NORDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM** — 3014 N.W. 67th St. "Familie-Portrett, Family Portraits — Norway to America," works by Joan Stuart Ross and Kristi Ylvisaker and prints of Greenland by Rudy Brueggemann. Through May 28. "Two-some and More," works by Inger Hodgson. Through March 26. Admission \$4; \$3 seniors and students; children younger than 5 free. Free admission first Tuesday of the month. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. 206-789-5707.

■ **SEATTLE ART MUSEUM** — 100 University St. "Porcelain Stories: From China to Europe," explores the history and heritage of porcelain. Through May 7. "Seattle Collects Lichtenstein," works by pop artist Roy Lichtenstein on the fourth floor. Through May 14. "Docu-

ments Northwest/The PONCHO Series: Earthly Paradise: Fitzgerald DeFreitas, Karen DeWinter, James W. Washington, Jr., March 30-Oct. 8. "Painted With Light: Photographs by the Seattle Camera Club," through July 3. "Earthworks Revisited," through May 31. "Early American Landscape and Graphic Tradition," through May 14. "Talking Fingers: Contemporary Weaving From the Northern Northwest Coast," through April 23. "Northwest Modern Art," runs indefinitely. Programs include: "Seeing the Light: How Renaissance Painters Changed the Way We See," lectures Saturdays, 3 p.m., through April 1. Tickets \$32 for series; \$10 at the door per lecture. 206-784-4268. Suggested museum admission is \$5-\$7; children younger than 12 free. Hours: Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. 206-654-3100; www.SeattleArtMuseum.org

■ **SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM** — Volunteer Park. "Paul Horiuchi," 30 works by the Northwest artist. Through June 11. "Explore Korea: A Visit to Grandfather's House," child-friendly exhibit that replicates a traditional Korean home. Ongoing. "Documents International: Eleven Heads Are Better Than One," "Chinese Shadow Puppets" and "Woven Symbols: Chinese Garments and Textiles," through April 2. "Wonders of Clay and Fire: Chinese Ceramics Through the Ages," a comprehensive survey of Chinese ceramics history. Open-ended run. Programs include: "Paul Horiuchi: 1906-1999; An Afternoon of Slide Talks," March 25, 3 p.m., in Stimson Auditorium, Volunteer Park. Also on display is the museum's permanent collection of works from China, Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea and South Asia, and rare Chinese snuff bottles. Suggested admission is \$3; children younger than 12 free. Admission plus \$4 is good for Seattle Art Museum and SAAM for one week. Hours: Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. 206-654-3100.

■ **SEATTLE ART MUSEUM RENTAL SALES GALLERY** — 1334 First Ave., Suite 140. "Close Observation Room," installation by James Jaxxa in the front. Through April 9. "Introductions 2000," works by Donnabelle Casis, Matthew Dennison, Elizabeth Jameson, Isabel Kahn and six other artists. Through April 8. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 206-654-3240.

■ **TACOMA ART MUSEUM** — 12th St. and Pacific Ave., Tacoma. "Fast Forward: The Shape of Northwest Design," March 25-June 18. "12th Street Series," works by Terence Johnson. Through April 4. Ongoing exhibition of Dale Chihuly glass. Museum admission is \$5; \$4 students and seniors; children under 6 are free. Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. 253-272-4258; www.TacomaArtMuseum.org

■ **WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM** — 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. Works by Northwest artist Helmi Juvonen. Ongoing. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. 888-238-4373; www.wshs.org

Art shows

■ **ALEXIS HOTEL** — 1007 First Ave. Australian Aboriginal fine art prints. Through March. Paintings by Cheri O'Brien. Through April 30. Fridays, 5-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 206-624-4844.

■ **MARTIN ANDREWS GALLERY**

— Imprint Bookstore Mezzanine, 820 Water St., Port Townsend. "Princess Tales," paintings by Andrea Lawson. Through March 30. Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 360-385-4679.

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