

Visual Maverick & Pellerin

The Tactile Mind Weekly #22 and #23

16 and 24 September 2003

Coffee Shop Notes

Sara Stallard

Visual Maverick

Joshua Weinstein picked up his photographic interest from his grandpa who was an avid photographer. Although he didn't inherit the Hasselblad, Josh has made good use of the 35mm SLR camera he was given, shooting roll after roll of pictures whenever on vacation with family and friends.

His enthusiasm in photography began to crystallize while spending time at North Carolina's Outer Banks over the last few years, and since then he has achieved remarkable control over depth of field. He has a particular talent for shallow depth and well-coordinated colors—bringing a soft sort of visual murmuring to his subjects.

Josh also has an eye for balance, bringing a tranquil sort of serenity to his photographs.

Check out the following: a bird perched atop a fencepost, in Little Falls, NJ; the seashore at the Outer Banks; and the cheerful brilliance of a flower patch at:

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/weekly/joshua.html>

And keep your eyes peeled for more by Josh in the future.

Pellerin: A Vessel of Creation

Although André Pellerin has been utilizing his creative talent for more than 20 years as technical director assistant with the Theater Arts program at Gallaudet, it wasn't until four years ago that he took his first ceramic class. Linda Jordan had begun teaching wheel throwing techniques, and Pellerin was instantly hooked.

Working with the gallery, labs, and special art collections at Gallaudet, Pellerin couldn't be in a better place for the proliferation of his recently developed talent. One hundred and five pieces of artwork—pottery, fabric art, photography, and painting—by Pellerin are currently on display at Gallaudet's Washburn Arts Center Gallery. During the show's opening reception on 10 September, he related how his subconscious came alive on the wheel, with the magic of bringing out something from a clump of clay.

Pottery is Pellerin's main interest, while he draws inspiration from working with other media. Blue is a dominant color in his work, along with red. Blue makes him feel relaxed and unlimited, like the sky; whereas, he actually holds red in disdain but provides it in abundance for others to enjoy (and to buy!). He laughed when asked about the seemingly Oriental design in his fabric art and ceramic appliques, explaining that he actually learned to paint flowers from Donna Dewbery on TV, although he stylized his colors into bolder palettes.

Other sources of motivation also reach back into his life—for instance, a variety of his vases demonstrate Greek motifs such as columns and antiquated cracks. Indeed, Pellerin has always

loved the Greek gods, watching many classic movies---he finds a certain quality in his work to be akin to the creative power of these mythical gods.

Another intriguing factor in some of his pieces---accidents in the lab, such as pieces blowing up in the kiln, have led to different forms—as if his art gets a life of its own.

One wonders that Pellerin has not adopted a colony of children, his talent for nurturing is more than apparent in the sheer volume of his love for creation.

If you live in or near Washington, DC, do stop by the Gallery and enjoy the sensuous plethora of his ceramic vessels and other works. The show runs through 26 September. Some of the pieces are for sale, although the best ones have been snapped up already (they're still on view, don't worry!).

© Sara Stallard. All rights reserved. Columns are not to be printed. Anyone desiring a printed form, should contact the author for permission.