

Exploring A Visual Feast

with The Santa Barbara Sculptors Guild

By ANDRIA WATSON / CASA

RICHLY ECLECTIC AND DIVERSE IN MATERIALS, the Santa Barbara Sculptors Guild exhibit opened as a 1st Thursday event at the Faulkner Gallery on February 6th.

“Presentation, workmanship, innovation, and whether the piece is intriguing, as well as anatomically sound, are all very important. Then it’s really the artwork that starts choosing you,” commented Bela Bacsí, an internationally reknown, and nationally honored sculptor, who is active in the Sculptors Guild, and who juried and curated the show.



Dancer (terracotta) by **Katie Van Horne** won 2nd place. (Detail).



Thoughtknot (bronze, wood, marble) by **Nathan Snyder** won 3rd place.

The Santa Barbara Sculptors Guild was established over 40 years ago by local sculptors, and is a non-profit community resource that encourages the art and appreciation of sculpture.

“The Guild is important in Santa Barbara because it unites a good network of artists working together, and it’s nice to share our passion for sculpting... there’s strength in our group,” remarked Francine Kirsch, sculptor and Co-President of SBSG.

There were 80 original entries submitted by artists from three counties, later narrowed to 40, with prizes awarded to eight individuals. First place went to **Anders Johnson** for his sculpture *Wart Hog*, 2nd prize to **Katie Van Horne** for her piece, *Dancer*, and third prize was awarded to **Nathan Snyder**, for his sculpture *Thoughtknot*.



Wart Hog (limestone) by **Anders Johnson** won 1st place.

After being given a piece of soapstone at the age of eleven, Johnson has been carving a variety of subject matter. He creates his carvings sitting beside a fireplace made out of an old cement mixer surrounded by the outdoors with the stars and owls flying overhead.

The inspiration for the prize winning sculpture came when Johnson was reading a nature magazine and came across a photo of the bizarre looking animal, and decided he had to carve it.

“The one thing that continues to drive my work can be summarized in one word: compulsion,” shared Johnson. “It’s just something you start doing. Why do people climb Mt. Everest? Because it’s there, and they just have to do it... that’s what it’s like with sculpting for me.”

“I couldn’t believe that my piece was chosen for the blue ribbon; I was amazed and dumbfounded by the decision,” Johnson explained. “It feels great to receive the award and I’m honored.”

The usage of bronze, marble, terra-cotta, stone, and other media gave each piece its own identity. The smallest sculpture was apple-sized, and the largest piece stood chest level to the viewer, conjuring images of the Golden Gate Bridge because of its construction, texture, and orange color.

The Faulkner Gallery is located at 40 E. Anapamu St, and is open Mon-Sat, 10 to 9pm. For information call 962-7653 or visit www.members.cox.net/sbsg