



"Where's Eddie?" - This assemblage by artist Joe Hendrick features the disturbing treatment of a friend's portrait, arranged to suggest the placards carried by the grieving mothers of "desaparecidos" ("disappeared ones") in Latin American countries.



Dancer Elizabeth Tillar, in mask, poses with Father Sebastian Falcone, from whom she took a course in Christology, a course the dean of St. Bernard's Institute offered at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

ROCLA Show

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Danny Gavin, 8 (left), and Alejandro Gomez, 7, investigate a plaster of Paris sculpture by Barbara Fox, entitled simply, "No!"

Gaspar's other exhibited works bear eloquent testimony to the espousal of her cause. "The Spiritual Works of Mercy," another mixed media collage on paper, depicts its subjects through photographs, drawings, and inscriptions listed in both English and Spanish. "Every Mother's Child," an unnerving assemblage of photos from El Salvador, prints from Nicaragua, and holy cards from Mexico, features black and white photographs of a mother and daughter killed by government bombing in San Francisco Javier, El Salvador, and the mother of a dead soldier as she receives his coffin in Dolores, El Salvador.

Other exhibited works included a photographic collage of newspaper clippings by Joan Lyons; photos of Salvadoran refugee camps by Jim Good; photos taken in Paramaribo, Surinam, during the coup d'etat that established the South American nation's independence from the Netherlands in 1975; Photographer Jamey Stillings' black and white "Nicaragua Series;" paintings by the Rev. Thomas Antonio Rosa; assemblages by Joe Hendrick (including "Where's Eddie?" - a disturbing treatment of a friend's portrait that calls to mind the posters of dead or "disappeared" children carried by grieving Central American mothers); "So Shall You Reap," a batik on rice paper done by Sister Kristin Malone; and the striking series of photos of Guatemalan women featured in Jazzberry's Restaurant in May by Marilyn Anderson.

Throughout the afternoon, an impressive roster of performing artists competed for attention with a sizable crowd of comers and goers whose noisy conversation often threatened to eclipse the scheduled entertainment. Memorable appearances were made by poet Finvola Drury (who read her poem, "Verses for a Festival"), the Borinquen Dance Company, folk singer Leah Warnick, flamenco dancer Elizabeth Tillar, and guest speaker Hugh Brantley (who had recently returned from Nicaragua).

Tillar appeared in a moving "shamanic flamenco" dance entitled "The Wounded Healer: Balancing Between Worlds" and accompanied by the reading of a Garcia Lorca poem by Father Sebastian Falcone, dean of St. Bernard's Institute. The four-part

dance was initially choreographed by Tillar as the culmination of a project she undertook for credit toward a master's degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

"This particular piece is based on shamanism, which I studied in the anthropology department at the University of New Mexico," says Tillar, who teaches flamenco dance at her downtown studio in the Michaels Stern Building on N. Clinton Avenue. "Shamanic ecstasy carries overtones of healing," explains Tillar, who says Father Falcone has also noted an arguable convergence between elements of Christianity and shamanism.

"I got involved in shamanism trying to find an inner solution to the Central American conflict," Tillar adds. Liberation theology, which is based on the premise that God is on the side of the oppressed, and takes its impetus from the model of the biblical Exodus, was the point of departure for the dance, she elaborates, while shamanism was the vehicle.

An upcoming collaboration between Tillar and Father Falcone on an hour-long dance/poetry reading should prove an interesting antecedent to the Latin American Arts Festival, in terms of the fascinating juxtapositions such collaborative efforts often produce.

As organizer Marilyn Anderson described the joint effort that led to the considerable success of this most recent collaboration of more than 35 area artists whose messages were as diverse as their respective media, "Not everybody is a ROCLA member, but everyone shares this common concern and need to do something about that concern through their art."

The quote from Chilean poet Pablo Neruda on the festival's publicity poster expressed that concern as eloquently as any painting or photo montage:

"I do not believe in inhuman hatred
I do not believe man is the enemy
I believe that with your hand and with mine ...
We will fill this country with joy
delicious and golden as wheat."

SSJ Renewal Program

A week of renewal for the Sisters of St. Joseph drew 14 participants to the campus of Nazareth College July 21 to 27. The group, ranging in age from 30s to 70s, consisted of two elementary school teachers, plus one staff person and one resident from St. Joseph's Convent and Infirmary; an occupational therapist and four retired teachers actively engaged in second or third careers; a pastoral assistant, a parish visitor and a nurse; a junior high teacher and a high school business teacher.

The week was planned and designed by Sister Virginia Schmitz, SSJ, to provide a wholistic experience of refreshment and renewal for members of the congregation.

Father David Barry, vice chancellor of the Syracuse diocese was the general director for the week. Guest speaker Mary Alice O'Mara,

RN, gave presentations on the psychological aspects of change and offered coping strategies for managing the effects of stress.

Father Joe Champlin, author and vicar for parish life in the Diocese of Syracuse, directed one-day which focused on themes of aloneness, loneliness, intimacy and love. Throughout the week, Sister Mary John Van Atta, SSJ, group process consultant, worked with the group on interpersonal communication skills. Evenings included films and other activities.

Nearing the conclusion of the Saturday morning activities, someone remarked that, in the quest for global peace, experiences such as this are as important as a summit meeting of world leaders. "More important!" added Sister Joseph Anne Collins, quickly. Everyone agreed.

The Courier-Journal will present its Annual Back-To-School Supplement on August 21st

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