



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Pear Lady: A Celebration of Feminine Mystique”

Marty Biernbaum, the featured artist at the **Charleston Artist Guild Gallery** for the month of March, has decided that it's time to celebrate the honest beauty of a *real* woman with a full figure, an intelligent, curious mind, and a sense of humor. Thus, we see the evolution of Biernbaum's pear paintings and clay sculptures “morphed” into bold female forms in her show “**Pear Lady: A Celebration of Feminine Mystique**”. Why a naked pear? Biernbaum says, “**Pear Lady** is way of revealing one side of my inner self. Superficial trappings such as clothing, jewelry, and make-up are absent, presenting her, like her namesake fruit, as a full, ripe, thriving individual.”

An award-winning artist for over 25 years, painting and clay are Biernbaum's two very different forms of artistic expression. They are used to express concerns and emotions through **Pear Lady**, from the rich painting of sassy “Elvira” to the anger-revealing sculpture “Computer Hacker” and the introspective work entitled “Healing.”

Stylistically, her work ranges from fanciful abstracts and contemporary sculpture to such natural images and forms as dragonflies and flowers. Not unexpectedly, in several of her paintings she uses thick mediums to create under-layers with a palette knife and very thick brushstrokes that remind the viewer of the three-dimensional texture of ceramic surfaces and will occasionally incorporate such embedded materials as gauze and flower petals.

With both kinds of media, I am strongly influenced by nature, my mind being imprinted by wonderful images while kayaking and hiking. Natural shapes and forms that we see every day and commonly overlook fascinate me, as do the intricate surfaces of many of these forms when examined very closely -- these patterns in nature have inspired many of my works. Living on the beautiful, natural coast of South Carolina has fortunately provided me with many opportunities for observation, as has travel to several natural areas overseas.

The positive energy of many supportive teachers and generous potters and painters Biernbaum encountered while attending classes at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Mesa College, San Diego, CA, and Old Dominion University, Norfolk, has kept her inspired. Biernbaum's works have been shown in the Charleston Visitors Center, the Coastal Conservation League Art Show in Beaufort, the Piccolo Spoleto Art Show in Marion Square, as well as the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Marty is an active member of Piedmont Craftsmen, Charleston Crafts, The Craftsmen's Guild of Pittsburgh, South Carolina Artisans, Carolina Designer Craftsmen, and the Charleston Artist Guild.

Opening reception will be held March 7th, from 5 pm to 8 pm. The exhibit will run from March 1st through March 31st. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and is located at 6 North Atlantic Wharf.

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