



Artists at Red Trombone Pair Paintings and Sculptures

By Jana Soeldner Danger | March 8, 2012



When artist Brenda Heim paints a canvas, she uses large, bold strokes.

Sculptor Doug Hays creates his metal birds, animals and abstracts by forging many small parts into a perfect whole.

Although their methods are different, sometimes the works of the two artists seem to call out to each other. And when they do, Heim and Hays may pair them together to become a new creation. “There can be a passionate tension or a melodic dance between our works, thus creating a marriage of the pairings,” Heim says.

Paintings and sculptures, both pairings and individual pieces, will be on display at Red Trombone—A Gallery, beginning on March 16. There will be a reception with the artists that evening. “I find their work to be very refreshing, and it’s a departure from anything else I’ve shown at the gallery,” says Red Trombone owner Sheila Bechert. “The cooperation between these two artists is unique.”

Heim’s technique is an unusual one. After unrolling a canvas on the floor, she dips a mop into buckets of ink or acrylic to produce colors and circular patterns that teem with movement and energy. “I use both hands so it becomes a full body experience.”

A few years ago, Hays built her a mop with a counter weight on the end of the handle so she can hold it horizontally, allowing her to further expand her technique.

For years, Heim used smaller, traditional brushes. “As her skill matured, the size of the brush tools enlarged. With the mop, I realized that I was stepping into a new realm.”

Her color combinations are often unusual. “They come to me intuitively, and I’ve learned not to question them.”

Hays turned to sculpting because metal fascinates him. “You think of steel as being hard and unyielding, something that’s stronger than you,” he says. “But when I heat it, I can transform it into sinuous curves. I love to capture grace and beauty, and do it with a piece of hard, flat metal.”

Hays employs two different techniques to create his pieces. The first is forging bars of iron over an anvil. The second is cutting patterns from metal sheets, then using a hammer to form and shape them over a wood stump or lead block.

After creating the individual pieces he needs, he welds them together. “If you looked at any single part of one of my birds, it wouldn’t look anything like a bird,” he says. “But the eye sees the entire piece, and the parts work together.”

Hays thinks his sculptures so often blend with Heim’s paintings because their visions are similar in some important ways. “We work with the same natural, universal lines. That makes the pairings work.”

Red Trombone -- A Gallery

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