

Nancy Cook-Monroe: Coppini Academy of Fine Arts gets a facelift

Published 09:35 a.m., Thursday, September 8, 2011

Pompeo Luigi Coppini (1870-1957) became chairman of Trinity University's art department in 1943, but he lasted only two years: Trinity wanted abstract expressionism; Coppini, who grew up in Florence, Italy, fought modernism as misguided. Almost 70 years later, Michaelangelo would feel at home at the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts - Coppini's studio at 115 Melrose Place - where his legacy lives through 60-plus students who learn to paint and sculpt there in a classical style. Picture the Centotaph in front of the Alamo or Littlefield Fountain at the University of Texas-Austin; he sculpted those and countless monuments throughout the country.

The Legendary Keystones, a philanthropic fraternal organization, recently funded a renovation of the academy and sculpture garden. At the opening celebration, Aug. 28, the new bamboo-floored gallery featured work by academy faculty Beth Eidelberg, Brad Braune, Irene Taylor, Phil Simpson, Ronald Watkins, Gladys Roldan-de-Moras, Kraig Kiedrowski, Scott Serafica and Trace Guthrie.

"There was a time when appreciating classical art was seen as unenlightened," explained Janice Hinds, board president. "Over the last two decades there's been a resurgence in collecting it by individuals and museums."

Though the sun beat 110 degrees, Vicki Fields, Pat Bahr, Jay Lauver, Kathleen Garrison and Jamie Guthrie, with son Milam, ventured out to see the Coppini's facelift.

A show of work by academy members will open Oct. 16.

Ramirez remembered

An elegant classicist in his own way, artist Chuck Ramirez was memorialized Thursday at a private exhibit at Ruiz-Healy Art, just a few blocks from the Coppini. The exhibit, Minimally Baroque, is companion to an exhibit of the same name at Blue Star Contemporary Art through Nov. 5.

Though saddened by Ramirez's untimely death last year, friends and fans including Nate Cassie, Alice Lynch, Chris Carson, Susie Finesilver, Lynn Crystal, Nancy and Frank Russell, Chris Hill and Rudy Choperena filled the galleries.



"It's beautiful, but it's never been this beautiful!" said Mike Casey, a longtime friend of the artist. "I'm sure it's Chuck Maurer (the digital printing expert who magnified Ramirez's alarmingly straight-on photos.)"

Encapsulating the loss Ramirez's admirers feel is an over-size photo of a plastic fast-food franchise cup, used on the exhibit's cover. The cup reads, "WHEN I AM EMPTY, PLEASE DISPOSE OF ME PROPERLY."

Nancy Cook-Monroe's Social Studies column appears Thursdays and Sundays in S.A. Life. Write to her at exnewssocialstudies@gmail.com.

Hottest Penny Stock EMBA

Pass on this stock & you will never forgive yourself.
www.GreenGainers.com/EMBA

CD & Money Market Rates

Search For the Highest Rates. Financial Calculators &
MMA.Bankrate.com

Hot Stock Pick - OMVS

Newest Solar Technology. Investment, Stocks, Trade, News.
www.OMVSsolar.com

Ads by Yahoo!

MYSANANTONIO	Life	TOPICS	MARKETPLACE	COMMUNITY	LOCAL SERVICES	ABOUT US
Home	Events Calendar	Community	Autos	Calendar	Air	About Us
News	Multimedia	Health	Classifieds	Photos	Conditioning	Advertise online
Blogs	National/International	Living	Find San Antonio jobs	OTHER EDITIONS	Contractors in San Antonio	Advertise in print
Business	Obituaries	Green SA	Real Estate	e-Edition	Car Dealerships in San Antonio	Newspaper Delivery
Sports	Politics	Military	Shopping	Mobile	San Antonio Cleaning Services in San Antonio	Place a classified ad
Columnists	Travel	Outdoors	Business Directory	Facebook	San Antonio Family Doctors in San Antonio	Buy Photos Archives
Editorials	Traffic	Visitors' Guide	Fan Shop	Follow us on Twitter	San Antonio Furniture Stores in San Antonio	Privacy Policy
Education	Weather	SA Paws		Express-News in Education	San Antonio Injury Attorneys in San Antonio	Terms and Conditions
Entertainment	Food	SA Cultura			New Car Dealers in San Antonio	Ethics Policy
Forums	Spurs					

Real Estate
Agents in
San Antonio
Real Estate
Attorneys in
San Antonio
Restaurants
in San
Antonio

San Antonio Express-News

© 2011 Hearst Communications Inc.

HEARST newspapers

