

ASSORTED SWEETS AND CANDY WRAPPERS AT THE GLORIA DELSON

By Brook Henderson

Based on popular demand, GDCA has brought back their "Compilations" Group exhibit as their December Art Walk offering. "Compilations II" features 12 artists, representing traditional, as well as digital painting, photography and mixed media.

Already garnering much attention is a 6' x 6' mixed media piece by artist Seaton Brown entitled "Eye Candy" – a portrait of actress Pamela Anderson comprised entirely of assorted sweets and candy wrappers. At close viewing it is not immediately discernable who the subject is, but when viewed from a distance or through a camera-lens, the iconic image comes into focus.

This show also marks the US debut for Halina Hildebrand, a photographer from Berlin, Germany. Known for her breathtakingly intimate portraits of Alzheimer Patients documented in her series "4 minutes with", as well as mentally and physically disabled persons, the artist often finds herself giving voice to 'borderline personalities'... people often isolated to and overlooked in the outskirts of society.

In "Compilations" however, Hildebrand lends her perspective to urban abstraction, presenting 2



Seaton Brown's portrait of actress Pamela Anderson entitled, "Eye Candy"
Photo by Kaye Nicole

photographs from her "Urban Landscapes" series. The settings are Berlin street scenes, abstracted to washes of color, which upon contemplation impart an exquisite sense of loneliness, of isolation, which she either leaves untouched, or contrasts with the barely recognizable outline of a figure, exposing the inherent tension of 'man versus city', giving equal

measure to both subjects. Hildebrand is scheduled to have a solo show with GDCA in 2012.

A more direct, yet no less discerning take on the urban perspective, is filmmaker Jason Ruscio's 'Balcony Series', which chronicles the photographic journey of a day in his triptych "Morning", "Noon" and "Night". Taken from the same visual vantage point, his

downtown balcony, this series was born out of a 2-year period of near physical confinement to his apartment after severe physical injury. "This view was essentially my connection to the outside world", says Ruscio, "I came to know it very well." The result is a visual love poem, at times reminiscent of the grainy film stock of the 70s, capturing the changing nuances of light, temperature and density.

Contrasting the theme of isolation, photographer Angelique Antoniou brings into focus the strength of the human spirit. Her portrait "Pure Joy" celebrates a glorious beauty of 101 years of age, in classic black and white simplicity, exuding the vibrancy and sheer joy of being alive. It is an image we should all be so lucky to have near our bedposts, being the first thing we see in the morning, and the last thing we see at night.

Compilations will be on view at GDCA through December 31st. Participating artists are: Angelique Antoniou, Seaton Brown, Marlene Capell, Irina Chelyapov, Nickolas Chelyapov, Laura Clemons, Linley Eathorne, Halina Hildebrand, Gil Mares, Michael Moon, Bakshi Rose and Jason Ruscio.