

# Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

## **JOHANNA HANSEN TELLS 'MORE STORIES' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY**

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, January 12 through February 17, 2013 will be *More Stories*, a one person exhibit featuring the socially sharp and witty ceramic pieces of well-known San Diego County artist Johanna Hansen. As her life continues to fly by, Johanna Hansen's autobiographical expressions come together once again at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery in this exhibit. Hansen's playful yet thought provoking sculptural work narrates the path she walks: a son gone off to college, insomnia, beauty pageants, bad television, goddess issues, and politics all come into play. Reception for the Artist is Saturday, January 12, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Johanna Hansen is an artist with a strong sense of the Feminine, the topical and the poetic. She says: "I tell stories. Anything from falling in love, to reality TV, to the horrors of war ... if I stumble upon it and it matters, I just might turn it into a piece". Hansen finds her storytelling voice in her choice of material - clay, brightly painted with ceramic paint and embellished with wires, ribbons, milagros and other fancy. Her pieces, well loved and often purchased by other artists, remind the viewer of Latin American folk art and children's sculpture. Hansen is a master of the art of this folk sense of the small poetic statement. She sees her pieces as "little

dialogues with my audience...vignettes...ditties...haiku...rather than epics”.

One feature of the exhibit will be a collection of small, autobiographical pieces which Hansen calls *My Tricks*, pieces that showcase some of the skills Hansen has acquired in her 55 years of living and coping. They are constructed of clay, paint, wire and mixed media. Each piece in Hansen's *My Tricks* series is in the form of an ample earth mother, a sort of Venus of Willendorf who is saying "I can ...". They are like humble affirmations that stand for the heroic in all of us, celebrating the small accumulation of acts that make people who they are.

Johanna Hansen taught middle school art before becoming a full time artist, and has taught workshops in her Lakeside studio and elsewhere. She has exhibited in Southern California galleries and museums for over thirty years. She is a member of San Diego's Allied Craftsmen. This is Hansen's third exhibit at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery.

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78 at Highway 79 in Santa Ysabel, seven miles below Julian. Admission to the gallery is free. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11AM - 5 PM, and by appointment. The gallery is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call (760) 765-1676.