

# Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

## **JOHANNA HANSEN EXHIBIT AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY**

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, January 16 through February 28, 2016 will be *Divinities, Artifacts of Worship*, a one person exhibit featuring the socially sharp and witty ceramic pieces of well-known San Diego County artist Johanna Hansen. Reception for the Artist is Saturday, January 16, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Johanna Hansen is an artist with a strong sense of the feminine and the topical. Hansen's playful yet thought provoking sculptural work narrates the path she walks. 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". At this time in Hansen's life "story" means her coming back from a serious bacterial illness that became a brush with death. Now recovered and making art again, Hansen says this about her upcoming Santa Ysabel Art Gallery exhibit: "*Divinities* came about following an illness and recovery that spanned two years. I experienced what felt like trench warfare for the ill-equipped, as I groveled toward prayer and anything remotely divine. It made me look back at my 58 years rather than to the future, hence the word 'artifacts' in the title. It was as if my story had been excavated as I made art for this show. Clues and remnants of objects, some well-worn, which remind us of worship or the search for hope".

Hansen finds her artist's 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 says that she sees her pieces as little dialogues with her viewers.

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 fourth 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.