

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

30352 Highway 78 . P.O. Box 480 . Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 . 760/ 765-1676

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ANNIE ROWLEY

760/ 765-1676

SANTA YSABEL, CA

JOHANNA HANSEN'S 'INTELLIGENT DESIGN' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, February 20 through March 28, 2010, will be *Intelligent Design*, a one person exhibit featuring the witty and socially sharp clay pieces of well-known San Diego County artist Johanna Hansen. *Intelligent Design* is an installation made up of many clay and mixed media creatures - all swimming or flying in the same direction, expressing Hansen's observations about the evolution of nature, man and the man-made. Reception for the Artist will be Saturday, February 20, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Johanna Hansen was born in Lakeside, California, and has lived there most of her life. Even though she studied painting and printmaking at San Diego State University, she has always worked primarily in clay and mixed media and is a full-time artist, beginning her career as a middle school art teacher. Hansen says her ideas come from the "wealth of subject matter in the everyday". In her clay sculptures, she confronts a variety of topics with whimsy, humor and satire. Her use of vibrant color, simple and symbolic forms, and the directness in her 'message' clearly reflect her love of folk art and her years of working with children. She sees

2010

her pieces as "little dialogues with my audience...vignettes...ditties...haiku...rather than epics..."

You might call Johanna Hansen an artist's artist. Her fellow fellow artists talk about and admire her work, and many of her colorful pieces are purchased by them. Her own artist's statement explains a little the appeal her work has for her collectors, artists and non-artists alike:

"I tell stories. Anything from falling in love to reality T.V. to the horrors of war...if I stumble upon it and it matters, I just might turn it into a piece.

I was raised on J.C. Penney, Sears and just two channels on television. My street was named Sunny Lane. My sister was runner up Miss Lakeside and I was not. I taught middle school art and learned more from my preteen students than I've learned anywhere else. I married someone I admired. I buried a baby son as I carried another inside of me. Both my parents are gone, yet they let me keep the best of them with me and I use it every single day.

My material of choice is clay. Clay takes form, records impression, and accepts color with ease. Expressively, clay is fragile, as is my subject matter."

Johanna Hansen has exhibited in Southern California galleries and museums for the past thirty years. This is her second exhibit at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery. She lives with her husband and their son.

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.