

Santa Ysabel , Ca. (July 1, 1995) – Harry Sternberg’s acrylic landscapes and Alan Ashby’s mythical and humorous sculptures of found art open an exhibit July 15, at the Santa Ysabel Gallery, with a reception to meet the artists from 2 to 6 pm.

The show runs through August 20.

Escondido-based Sternberg is a nationally known painter, print-maker (Etchings, Lithographs, Serigraphs, Woodcuts, and other graphic arts techniques), author, film maker and teacher. He has won many awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship

He has taught at the Art Students League, the New School for Social Research, the Museum of Modern Art, University of Southern California, San Diego State, and Brigham Young University.

His published books include: Silk Screen Color Printing, Materials of Etching, Composition, Abstract-Realistic Drawing, and Woodcut.

He directed and produced the art film , “The Many Worlds of Art,” “In which music is used to intensify emotional understanding of content in painting.”

Sternberg has been exhibiting his work since 1932. His works are found in the permanent collections of museums worldwide. A retrospective of his print work was held last year at the San Diego Museum of Art.

In addition to acrylic landscapes, the show will feature a self-portrait, and work featuring masked imaginary figures.

A major theme of Sternberg’s work in the 1930s was powerful social commentary. He applied his conscience and gifts to the Pennsylvania coal miners, steel workers, urban construction workers, and oppression and bigotry toward minority groups. He used mythical images and allegory in comments on war and women. Scenes from everyday urban and industrial life took on heroic proportion under his eye and hand.

The 1950s brought Sternberg from his lifelong home in New York to the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts for a summer teaching stint, and eventual position as Head of the Art Dept. These short visits lead him to make

the West Coast his permanent home, where he turns his formidable talents to our local landscape.

Alan Brent Culver Ashby is both a master in building construction skills and a self-taught folk artist. The Santa Ysabel Gallery is the first public venue where his work has been shown. Whether conventional or original, metal roofs, wood walls; granite floors, counters, and basins all respond to his imagination and skill.

He has created a universe of salvage iron – scrap metal found art.

The garden of his Ramona studio is inhabited by figures not at first discernible, gradually emerging into view. It's a mythical and humorous world of ingeniously crafted armed guardians, rotund peoploids, predatory birds and insects, and winking masks.

These figures at first seem of uniform material: only on close inspection does one see parts of motorcycles, tableware, hand tools, and other industrial byproducts.

When not welding in his shop, or bringing to life roofs, walls, and stone bathing vessels, Ashby might be found tending his herd of goats in his Ramona Alpine hideaway. He is an enthusiastic and versatile artist and backwoodsman.

The Santa Ysabel Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78, Santa Ysabel. Hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. , Wednesday through Monday (Closed Tuesday). For more information, please call 765-1676.