

01.06.2011

Inaugural Winter Exhibit at BCEC

Inaugural Winter Exhibit at BCEC

By Rick Winterson

Susan Merritt, who is the art consultant for the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), curated and hung a South Boston exhibit there last week. She entitled it "The Inaugural Winter Solstice Art Celebration". And a celebration it was. It provided welcome splashes of color and form, along with upbeat musical performances, to stave off the increasingly long, cold nights as Winter Solstice brings its dark, 15-hour nights.

The exhibit showed diverse paintings from Artists for Humanity, the Fort Point Arts Community, the South Boston Arts Association, Natural Acts, and the Distillery Studios. In addition, there were displays of some fine sculptures and large, colorful silkscreen banners. Music, including many seasonal numbers, was provided by the Perry School Music Ensemble, the Larry Plitt Band, and the Sweetwater Quartet (which this writer recalls as "Slocum's Whatever!").

The exhibit contained

mostly large oil or acrylic paintings. Smaller ones were arranged in cohesive groups of three or four for emphasis. Within the overall exhibit, there were many genres, including a few topical works, such as a silkscreen banner depicting a wind farm on a turbulent ocean and an oil painting entitled "The Gulf" (Ann Scott), a semi-abstract rendering of the BP oil spill. The latter is reminiscent of Picasso's "Guernica". The lone mixed media work – "Forest for the Trees" by Terry Bontelle – was striking,

as was "At Home in Air & Distance", a large oil by Sandy Litchfield.

The sculptures arrayed along the northeast gallery on the Convention Center's second level were especially notable (this writer confesses to a weakness for 3-D art of all kinds). Most were abstract; some carried symbolic meanings. Many materials were used. One semi-realistic work – "Horse, 2010" by Jamie Burnes – was formed from Cor-Ten, the rust-resistant alloy steel, and weathered cedar. Another sculpture,

"Forbidden Fruit" by Otello Guarducci, used a dollar sign form as both frame and matrix. The sculptures were on loan from L'Attitude, a gallery and sculpture garden on Newbury Street.

The Inaugural Winter Solstice Art Celebration was well worth the stop. Not so incidentally, the exhibit is a tribute to the original, high-quality work by our local artists, many of whom you know as neighbors. Merritt's exhibit at the BCEC shows them off to great advantage



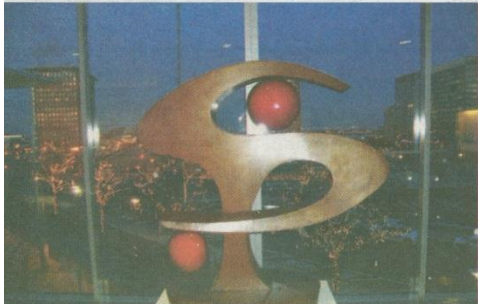
The Perry School Music Ensemble at the Winter Solstice Art Celebration. Standing far left, Director Adrienne Hartzell; center back row, MCAA Executive Director James Rooney and City Councilor Bill Linehan.



"Horse, 2010" by Jamie Burnes, sculpture in Cor-Ten steel, cedar, stone, rock.



"The Gulf" by Ann Scott, oil, Fort Point Arts Community, evocative of Picasso's "Guernica".



"Forbidden Fruit" by Otello Guarducci, sculpture in Cor-Ten steel, painted steel.



"Sequoia" by Helen Yung, acrylic, Artists for Humanity.



A silk screen banner diptych at the Convention Center's Winter Solstice Art Celebration.



"Forest for the Trees" by Terry Bontelle, mixed media, Fort



"Swirls" by Jessica Sullivan,

