

CASA Magazine

# Joyful shocking Moments of Color

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**INTERJECTING THE SENSES WITH BRIGHT AND FRESH COLOR.** artists Diane Stevenett and Perry Hoffman tempt the palette in honor of epicure. sb, Santa Barbara's month long celebration of the culinary arts. The two-person show, which includes oil paintings, colorful mosaics, print photography, and drawings on silk, is on display at CASA Magazine



Central Peace Map (mosaic broken tile, broken china, handmade ceramic Buddha, Smalti) by Perry Hoffman.

through the month of October. "When I was invited to do a show with an epicurean theme, I wasn't sure I was going to be able to do it," said Stevenett. "But I looked at what I had and then started painting variations on the theme of fruit bowls. I created five pieces all at once. I found it a rich, playful way to express." Stevenett invited Hoffman to join her for the show, having originally met him through one of his mosaic workshops. "I love Perry. He's a talented, vibrant, alive artist in touch with the spontaneous," she said. "I thought, 'If anyone would do this with me, Perry would do it.' It all came together with magical synchronicity. I love it when that happens."

The oldest of nine children, Stevenett grew up on a farm in Alberta, Canada. As a child, she enjoyed carving and sculpting the snow that fell during the extreme winters, turning huge snow drifts into rooms complete with tables, benches, and fruit bowls. She was inspired by her father, an accomplished wood carver, who was often found working in his shed. "He had a flair for sculpture," she said. "He was my best ally and a great support." Always surrounded by art

and music, Stevenett was encouraged through classes in school and went on to earn a full scholarship from Eastern Washington State University as a singer. She studied art along the way and earned an MFA in sculpture



Diane Stevenett

and drawing from Brigham Young University. Stevenett moved to Los Olivos in the 1980s and currently works out of an old barn turned art studio in Santa Barbara.



Perry Hoffman

Perry Hoffman is an artist, photographer, mosaicist, rattle-maker, potter, and designer. "If I can touch it and break it, I can make art out of it," he said. Hoffman was involved with art from an early age and was also inspired by his father, who was a photographer.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Hoffman's love of art was encouraged by his parents, and he worked in clay, colored pencils, chalk, and photography from age five. "I was always drawing and coloring since I was very young and always involved in art. I was once caught drawing a nude in the first



Fruit Bowl #6 (oil on canvas) by Diane Stevenett.

grade," said Hoffman. He moved to San Francisco in 1975 and worked with United Way for 15 years as a graphics manager, but art has always been his true calling.

Since 2000, Hoffman has been transforming his house near Joshua Tree Natural Park into a living piece of art. "I started mosaicing the inside and out—the walls, the floors, everything. It's my art. It's my passion. I'm doing this for the love of it," he said. Hoffman recently completed a book entitled *Eight Years in Wonder Valley*, a photo essay documenting the beauty of the rural desert. He is an active member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) and Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council in the high desert and spends his time between Santa Barbara and the desert.

CASA Magazine is located at 23 E. Canon Perdido. Hours are 9am to 5:30pm, Mon through Fri. For more information, call 965-6448.