

Artamo Gallery

Insight: A Glimpse

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

TO EXPLORE THE BEAUTY AND THE MYSTERY WITHIN, three abstract painters come together in *Insight*, the newest exhibition on display at Artamo Gallery. Featuring the work of Tamar Kander, Hyunmee Lee, and Santa Barbara local Madeline Garrett, *Insight* will be on exhibition through March 28th. An opening reception will be held during 1st Thursday on March 4th from 5 to 8pm.

"I've always been drawn to abstract painting, especially the painters from the 50s and 60s," said Garrett. "When I was young, I knew that I wanted to be a part of that style and create something like that as well."

Garrett includes Willem de Kooning, Hans Hofmann, and Rufino Tamayo, as well as Rothko and Picasso, among her favorite painters, but Georgia O'Keefe has been an inspirational role model. When Garrett moved to Santa Barbara from the east coast, she "pulled a Georgia O'Keefe," as she described it: "I was always interested in Georgia O'Keefe.



Contact Sensation IX, acrylic on canvas, 34" x 30", by **Hyunmee Lee**

She was so independent and strong-willed. She always did what she wanted regardless of what the world thought," said Garrett. "Like her, I went from a city lifestyle to my quiet artist studio in Santa Barbara, where I could focus on my artwork, find inspiration in my surroundings, and develop my life as an artist."

Garrett grew up in New Jersey and studied graduate level economics and finance at Villanova University. After living in Pennsylvania for nearly a decade, she moved across the country to start her life as an artist. "I was looking for a beautiful place, and I had heard that Santa Barbara was very supportive of artists," she said. "I had been through town a few times, so after securing a job as a bartender, I packed up and left."

Garrett now works full time as an accountant and devotes her free time to painting, even if that means waking up at three or four in the morning when the



Madeline Garrett

inspiration hits. "I use whatever time I have," said Garrett. "I appreciate the balance that

working in a social environment provides, but I'm always problem-solving a painting even if I'm not actually painting. Sometimes I even send myself text messages during the day for ideas that I want to try out later at home."

Joining Garrett in the show are internationally acclaimed artists Tamar

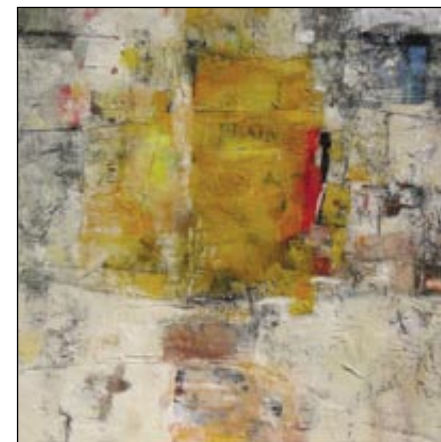
Kander and Hyunmee Lee. Kander was born in Israel and grew up in South Africa. She holds a BA in Fine Arts with Honors from the University of the Witwatersrand and an MFA from the University of London. She lives and works in Nashville, Indiana. Lee was born in Seoul, Korea and completed her BFA in painting at Hong-Ik University. She went on to receive an MA and MFA from the University of Sydney in Australia. Lee currently resides in Utah, where she is a Professor at Utah Valley State College.

"I'm fortunate and honored to be hanging with these amazing artists," said Garrett. "I hope that while looking at our paintings, people take a moment to look within and glimpse the spiritual beyond the physical, remembering there are things in life beyond the day to day routine."

Artamo Gallery is located at 11 West Anapamu St. Hours are 12-5pm, Tues through Sun. For more information, call 568-1400 or visit www.artamo.com.



Red Geraniums, acrylic on canvas, 48" x 48", by **Madeline Garrett**



Plain Good, mixed media on canvas, 40" x 40", by **Tamar Kander**