

Santa Barbara Art Studios Gallery

# Anton Tihomirov

By **Devon Pettengill** / CASA

**W**HETHER  
BRIGHTLY  
COLORED AND  
SURREALIST

or realistic and monochromatic, the oil paintings of Anton Tihomirov, which are on view at Santa Barbara Art Studios Gallery through April 21st in a show titled *Arboreal Meditations of an Ex-Cosmonaut*, are bold, filled with passion, mystery, and symbolism.

Tihomirov was born in Yekaterinberg, Russia in 1975 and knew he wanted to be an artist since he was a small child. He painted with oils for the first time when he was twelve years old.

He came to the United States in 1995, living briefly in Pasadena and Glendale, California. He soon moved north



Anton Tihomirov



The Tree by Anton Tihomirov

to Lompoc, where the winters were a bit warmer, and attended UCSB, earning a bachelor's degree in art studio with an emphasis in painting.

According to Tihomirov, each of his paintings has a different emotion, giving each piece a purpose of its own, and a different effect on its audience.

In addition to surrealist paintings and still lifes, Tihomirov also paints landscapes, a form that he feels is particularly relevant to living in the Santa Barbara area.

"Santa Barbara is a small city between the ocean and the mountains," he shared. "People here like to see landscapes."

He lists both nature and cities among his subjects,



Still Life With Skull by Anton Tihomirov

but he prefers to spend time close to nature than in the big city. He takes inspiration from living in Santa Barbara, from the ocean, and the sunsets.

In addition to the visual arts Tihomirov enjoys poetry. "I write some poetry and prose in Russian and publish it on the internet – for example on the *Russian National Poetry Server*.

Among the art to be found in his home is the work of Salvador Dalí.

"To become a good artist, you have to try to be like the greatest of them," Tihomirov shared.

The gallery is open M-F by appt, Sat 1-7pm & Sun 1-5pm and is located at 709 E. Mason St. For information, call 637-6802.