

Elizabeth Gordon Gallery Celebrates Grand Opening:

America Martin's Figurative Landscapes

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

INSPIRED BY A VAN GOGH BOOK and driven by a passion to create art, America Martin's visually brilliant and intellectually captivating work will be the first exhibit to open at the newly named Elizabeth Gordon Gallery (formerly SB Art Company) on 1st Thursday, May 1st. Martin will be present at the reception from 5 to 8pm.

As a young girl, Martin bought a Van Gogh book at a yard sale. "It peeled my eyes and made me see the world in a different way," Martin explained. "I began drawing everything and everyone around me." Martin's encounter with Van Gogh's work led her into the world of art, and it was then that she knew she wanted to be an artist.

Martin studied with Vernon Wilson, professor of painting and drawing of Art Center School of Design in Pasadena from the age of eleven until the age of 18. She was also a scholarship student at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts.

Martin's favorite landscape is that of the human form. Hers vary both in medium and in size. She works as small as 18" x 24" on paper to 78" x 89" on canvas. "I work with anything I can get my hands on," she described. "I go



Miami fisherman boy with crab by America Martin. Oil and Acrylic on canvas. 50"x60".

through mediums like seasons."

Martin calls her body of work impressionistic. Rather than trying to achieve an accurate depiction of her subjects, Martin with a command of line and color captures a feeling or experience of the subject.

As a Los Angeles native, Martin finds an overabundance of inspiration for her work in downtown. She takes her camera with her and photographs people in everyday situations. "Los Angeles has such a rich diversity of cultures," Martin described. "I find different beautiful faces." Her work is inspired by life, her travels, and everything that surrounds her.

Martin has the honor of having Academy Award winning actress, Mary Steenburgen as one of her patrons. Steenburgen played the part of a fine artist on the television series, *Joan of Arcadia*. Martin created the artwork attributed to Steenburgen's character and was seen each week on the show.

Martin is excited to be able to contribute to all that is and all that will be in art and hopes to one day "be among the great artists of the generation."

Elizabeth Gordon Gallery is located at 15 W. Gutierrez St. After being in business for 24 years, it will officially open under its new name on 1st Thursday, May 1st. Open Mon 10-2pm & Tues-Sat 10-5pm. For more information call 963-1157. To view more work by America Martin visit www.americamartin.com.



America Martin



Mother and child by America Martin. Oil and Acrylic on Canvas. 35"x45".