

Eric Vrymoed: Shell Shocked

By Devon Pettengill / CASA

T MIGHT BRING TO MIND the dreamlike distortions of Salvador Dalí, or maybe the wobbly whimsicality of Doctor Seuss, but on the other hand, Eric Vrymoed's sculpture is like nothing you have ever seen before. His show entitled *Reflections on a Shell* will be on display at CASA Magazine through the end of May, and there will be an artist's reception on Saturday, May 23rd from 4pm to 6pm.

"I am looking for a visceral reaction, shock value with a certain awe," shared Vrymoed. "I want viewers to be shocked, surprised, but also overwhelmed by the

formal aspects of the work."

Working primarily in bronze, steel, aluminum, and occasionally rubber, Vrymoed finds inspiration for his sculpture not just in daily experimentation



Eric Vrymoed

in the studio, but also through study of psychologists and philosophers such as Carl Jung and Gaston Bachelard. The work in his current show was inspired mainly by a chapter on shells in Bachelard's book *The Poetics of Space*.

"It is the idea of the shell as a metaphor, as an intimate space that can be internal or external," Vrymoed shared.

In a way, Vrymoed's sculptures defy our common notions of the forms metal can take, with shapes and curves that imply the



A Shell for Bernard Palissy, aluminum and steel, by Eric Vrymoed

flow of a liquid or the growth of an organism. Vrymoed sees art as a vital form of communication between people in society.

"First of all there is a creative inspiration, these ideas that you want to express that otherwise couldn't be said," he shared. "Sculpture allows me to use my hands and present an object in three-dimensional space as opposed to a two-dimensional illusion."

Vrymoed grew up in Sacramento and came to Santa Barbara to attend Santa Barbara City College, which he heard was the best college of its kind in the state.

Like many artists, Vrymoed's passion for his art form started with travel in Europe that gave him the

opportunity to see the work of the masters, in particular sculpture he saw in Amsterdam and

Italy.

Upon attending SBCC, he found himself deeply immersed in a sculpture class taught by Ed Inks, who inspired him to develop his visual language and his art. Another mentor was Nevin Littlehale, instructor of bronze casting in SBCC's Adult Education program and rapid visualization in the undergraduate program.

"I really started dedicating my life to sculpture a year and a half ago," Vrymoed shared. "Those two guys really helped me along the way. They really taught me everything I know."

Vrymoed sees SBCC as a huge factor in the growth of art in the Santa Barbara area. The college has certainly been a huge part of his personal growth as an artist: Vrymoed will attend the School of Art and Architecture at UCLA this fall.



In one ear, out the other, bronze and rubber, by Eric Vrymoed



Untitled, aluminum and steel, by Eric Vrymoed

CASA Magazine is located at 23 E Canon Perdido. The office is open Mon-Fri, 9am-5:30pm. For more information, call 965-6448.