

Artist Graig Anderson Brings New Beings to Market



BY MARIE ARY

Looking for one-of-a-kind art for gift giving that also is easy on the pocketbook? Then stop by Seattle artist Graig Anderson's day stall and enter his world of fantastic, intricately detailed miniature

"Some art pieces are flying, some are levitating and some are swimming," he said. "These make great Christmas tree ornaments, stocking stuffers or added on the outside of a gift as part of the gift wrapping." His simple figures "can take at least one month, from start to finish, which is the shortest amount of time for one of my sculptures," said Anderson. "I have some things that take six months to complete."

Each sculpture begins as a ball of soft clay "which I push and pull on in different places to yank out limbs, arms and legs," he said. "Then I push the clay in to make armpits and torsos before I wire it to hang it up on a piece of string."

The next step is to fire the clay. "I cook each piece hard like cookies in an oven, after which it cools," said Anderson. "Then I carve it, sand it, and begin to gesso it and paint it several times until I've got a good surface to paint with acrylic paints." He sculpts each figure with paint. "I'm sculpting with paint, using it like cake frosting, as well as sculpting with clay," he said. "I sculpt with paint two different ways: I make paint thicker and build up on the gesso and I use it like facial makeup to shade and contour before I varnish it a couple of times."

While Anderson finds inspiration in "everything I see," he credits other sources of inspiration to include children's author Dr. Seuss, Seattle-based artist Terry Turrell and artist Alexander Calder "who invented the mobile," he said. "Some of my mixed media work in particular is inspired by how Terry Turrell, who sold his artwork here at the Market, works with the surfaces of his pieces."

His customers include "people with a little different taste who have recently seen a movie or video such

as Star Wars or Monty Python or movie producer Tim Burton's work," said Anderson. "Each art piece will remind a customer of something and customers seem to fill up the sculptures with meaning as they interpret what they see in the art pieces."

Anderson will create a mobile for the customer who selects and buys three sculptures. "If a customer chooses three art pieces, I can make them a mobile and pack it up in about 20 minutes while they enjoy the rest of the Market."

Currently, he is experimenting with his drawings. "I'm experimenting with different ways to present my drawing as printed, screened work," he said. "I have a few of these pieces available for sale."

During December, look for

(continued next page)



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Photos by Marie Ary

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