



Wednesday, November 23, 2005

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **IDAKATHERINE GRAVER**

### **“Love and Death”**

Paintings: November 11, 2005 - January 15, 2006

Ida Katherine says she was conceived on a freighter passing between two hurricanes and was born and raised near the Gulf coast in southeast Texas. She spent her early summers at the family's ramshackle beach house on the peninsula near Galveston. Although she has lived her adult life in the landlocked desert Southwest, she still craves the ocean and travels to the Pacific or the Gulf frequently. You can always hear the surf from her favorite hangouts.

Ida Katherine attended the Great Books liberal arts program at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her artistic vision took root during those times through tumultuous emotional experiences. Twice committed to an institution in her first 30 years, she has resolutely continued throughout the years to paint what she feels.

Ida Katherine creates Outsider Art (art that is created by mostly self-trained artists working with very personal imagery) and is self-taught to the extent anyone could be who grew up in her parents' art studio. Her vision is always expanding - she began drawing with pastels but these days prefers larger canvases and bolder colors. One of her largest projects, a decade in the making, is a city of three-dimensional paintings on masonite "buildings" up to nine feet tall. which are designed to capture the extremes of human metropolitan experience.

At first glance the organic forms in her paintings seem somewhat playful but on closer examination appear to be hiding more emotionally charged undercurrents.

Exhibitions she has recently participated in include Stetter Gallery (International Friends of Transformative Art), Phoenix, Arizona, November 1993; Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, "Cargill father Graver daughter" Fall/Winter 2004; St. John's College Alumni Art Show, Santa Fe, New Mexico, July, 2003 and The Bastille Show, Paris, France, October, 2002.

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



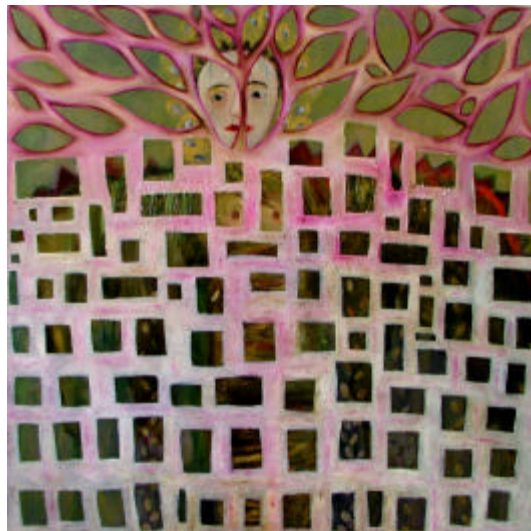
Idakatherine Graver



“Rolling Women” painting



“Three Bad Mothers” painting



“Woman In The Woods” painting

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