

Porno Peppers? You Decide

SLO artist Dorothy Riggs was shocked last month when one of her paintings on loan to the County Planning Department was removed from public display. Officials said they'd received complaints from three employees that the painting was too sexually explicit. The subject? A pair of peppers.

OK, so one was sliced in half, revealing the seeds inside, and the other had a white stem. Sound overtly sexual to you? Well, you can decide for yourself by viewing "Yin and Yang Peppers" plus "Forbidden Fruit" in an exhibit of Riggs' original oils and new prints at August Editions, 385 Higuera St., SLO.

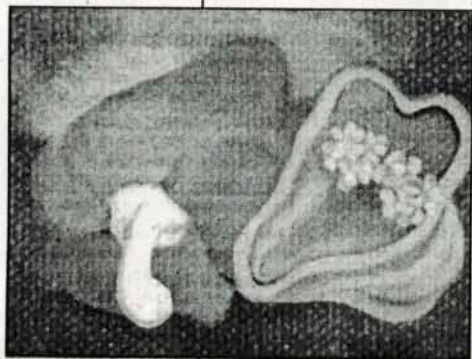
You can meet the artist and discuss her works at a reception Oct. 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. The works will be on display Oct. 24 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will remain available there through November and into the Christmas season.

Riggs has "an abstract symbolic style of painting that takes a wholistic view

of life and integrates elements of nature, creation, sensuality, and spirit."

"If they've got a problem with [peppers], I've got a painting of an apple that'll really set them off," said Riggs, an active member of the National Women's Caucus for Art who regularly participates in art exhibitions and arts fund-raising as well as offering creative workshops.

For more info on the show, call 781-3150.



Pick a pair: Dorothy Riggs' censored peppers.



KAM JACOBY will exhibit a series of large-scale black-and-white photographic portraits in the Cuesta College Art Gallery Oct. 23-Nov. 23. An opening reception will be held Oct. 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the gallery, followed by an artist's talk at 8 p.m. in the Humanities Forum. Info: 546-3202.

AWEEPANO VIVA DAVID exhibits sculptures, paintings and bead art in a show called "To Life", celebrating the strength, beauty and sensuality of women, Oct. 24-Nov. 15 at Sun Quest Native Arts, Hwy 1 in Big Sur. An artist's reception will be Oct. 24-25 from 1 to 4 pm. Details: 667-0224.

DOROTHY RIGGS exhibits her paintings Oct. 24-25 from 11 am to 5 pm at August Editions, 385 Higuera St. in SLO. An artist's reception is Oct. 24 from 2 to 5 pm. The show includes two controversial paintings, "Forbidden Fruit" and "Yin and Yang Peppers," which were recently removed from a county office. Info: 781-3150.

ARTWALK '98 at the Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara features landscape paintings by the Oak Group, plus artworks by elementary schoolchildren, Oct. 24 from 9 am to 5 pm and Oct. 25 from 9 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$5; free for children under 12. Info: 682-4711.

"A TASTE OF ART" will feature the works of nine artists from throughout the county presented by the Assistance League of SLO County from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Forum on Marsh, SLO. The benefit event for organization's philanthropic projects will include wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, music, and a silent auction. Artists displaying their works include John Partridge, Nancy Becker Bogenreif, Dotty Hawthorne, Allen Root, Marilyn Block, Merle Bassett, Ari Metchik, Joanne Beaulé Ruggles, and K.T. Vignal Hobgood. Tickets are \$18. Info: Barbie at 461-1234 or Terry at 546-8217.

"BAYWOOD SUMMER AFTERNOON COMMUNITY MURAL" will be painted by folks from the community during Baywood Park's Octoberfest celebration Oct. 25, from 9 am to 1 pm at 1210 Second St. The mural, designed by Los Osos artist Liz Maruska, is sponsored by LOCO, Los Osos Community Organization. A \$5 donation is requested from each painter, with scholarships available. Info: 528-1614.

NICOLAS TRUDGIAN is an aviation artist who will sign his book, "Air Combat Legends," Oct. 25 from noon to 4 pm at the Soldier Factory Aviation Art Gallery, 789 Main St. in Cambria. Info: 927-3804.

THE OIL, PASTEL & ACRYLIC GROUP of the SLO Art Center will exhibit selected works Oct. 27-Nov. 22 at the center at 1010 Broad St. at Mission Plaza. A reception is set for Oct. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Mondays. Info: 543-8562.

EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS is an exhibit of altars honoring the Mexican Day of the Dead celebration, on display Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at various locations around the county, sponsored by the SLO County Arts Council. Info: 544-9251.

ELIZABETH MACQUEEN exhibits her bronze sculptures at the SLO Art Center Oct. 31-Jan 3. An opening reception will be Oct. 31 at 6 pm, with costumes encouraged. Details: 543-8562.