

Arts & Galleries

Getting Under Your "Skin" at Lana Santorelli Gallery

"Skin" is perfectly timed for a hot summer day. Tucked away on Southampton Village's Jobs Lane, the Lana Santorelli Gallery, a cozy space, is bursting with unique pieces that are part of the new exhibition, which runs through July 23.

Contrary to my unrealistic expectation that this show would consist of a bunch of nude photos, this exhibit was actually a fantastic collection containing works in virtually every medium. Part of this show's appeal is the over-exposed verses the conservative expressions of skin. The William Blake line on the "Skin" flyer seems to sum it all up – "Art can never exist without naked beauty displayed."

From bronze to tile work and watercolor to clay, "Skin" includes works by Sue Barr, Kathleen Barrett, Leandro Comrie, Cathy Diamond, Kate Fauvell, Edward Joseph, Michael Knigin, Jamal Kukalashvili, Brian Leighton, Joshu Lucas, R.R. Lyon, Daniel Malisky, Rita Marandino, Jonathan Morse, Ellen Nora, Anne Oshman, Victoria Pacimeo, Daniel Petrov, Inga Poslitur, Angus M. Powers, Peggy Pugh, Dan Raphael, Don Saco, Lana Santorelli, Effie Serlis, Frank Sofo, Emily Stedman, Elyse Taylor, Lieve Thiers, Sabrina Tilikevich, Al Torres and Chris Vilardi.

Every body part is exposed in this show, from feet and bellies to breasts. Following the pregnant belly photography trend are three bright, glossy color photos by Sue Barr. I admit, I usually dislike pregnant belly photos, but I think Sue has changed my mind. These are elegant, bechy and capture the essence of pregnancy in the Hamptons. How does she do it? "The essence of life is in relationships. I convey this visually by capturing those wonderful, spontaneous

moments – the ones that tell the story of a family, an event or a campaign. That is why I prefer to work in series. What one photo may only hint at, a series truly explores. They are the still pictures in the movie of our life that will speak to generations to come," explained Barr. I know who I'm calling for my family photos. Visit www.suebarr.com for more information.

"The Legs" by Anne Oshman may have been the most inventive piece. A tiled pair of strappy, high-heeled women's legs, the coloring of the tiles brought the piece to life, while the arrangement of tiles in several patterns, especially around the knees and ankles, gave it a sense of movement.

Brian Leighton's "25 Degrees" is so hot that I started to sweat. This black and white photo is the side view of a nude woman sandwiched between a tree trunk and a nude muscular man. If you look closely (trust me you will want to), on the other side of the tree trunk the couple is holding hands. Or maybe they're up a tree, on a branch and gripping the tree. Either way, it's sexy and sweet.

One of the best watercolors I've seen in a while is Emily Stedman's "Cupid and Psyche." Her mix of reds, oranges and yellows with highlights in blue bring out the erogenous zones of the two lovers. This hot, nude, dark-haired couple embracing is a great contrast to the cool blue and purple background.

One of the more amusing pieces in the show is by



"Legs" by Anne Oshman

Jonathan Morse. Two large black and white photos, one of plump, dark-skinned, seated buttocks facing the right and the other plump, light-skinned, seated buttocks facing left. The buttocks are so similar, they could be the same person with skin tones changed by paints, photography tricks or Photoshop. Either way, I could see these hanging in a bedroom or a spacious bathroom.

Don't miss Lana Santorelli's two paintings, hanging on the half wall of the reception area. The purple and gray tones of "A Time To Decide" depicts a woman in a towel, standing in her closet, trying to pick out an outfit for the night. This painting features

long brush strokes and has an understated elegance.

Other pieces that you can't miss include a Picasso-esque painting by Leandro Combre of a mother just finished breast feeding and holding her baby; a thigh-high, upright sculpture of a thumb with a bright, red fingernail protruding from the floor and what I'll call the scissor-kick piece – two canvases working together to show a pair of legs sticking out of bright blue water performing a scissor-kick with a translucent overlay of a pair of lime-colored scissors.

Lana Santorelli Gallery is located at 77 Jobs Lane in Southampton. For inquiries, call 631-283-6308 or visit www.lanasantorelligallery.com. Open most days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

– D. Guest