

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2009

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Tosti Studios to Showcase Laguna College Alumni “Construct: Erin Metzdorf | Ryan Schroeder” • September 3-13, 2009 Tosti Studios, 210 N. Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach

Laguna College of Art & Design Fine Arts alumni Erin Metzdorf and Ryan Schroeder will be showcased at Tosti Studios’ alternative space in Laguna Beach. The show will feature original works from the LCAD fine art graduates juxtaposed in a unique venue that doubles as a photography studio and platform for emerging artists. Guests are invited to attend the opening to be held in conjunction with First Thursdays ArtWalk on September 3, from 6-9pm. The closing reception will be held Sunday, September 13 from 6-9pm where attendees will meet the artists and have the opportunity to interact with them in this distinctively intimate setting.

“I met both Ryan and Erin at the LCAD Senior Exhibition, and I was impressed with their concepts. Ryan is working with the idea of construction in relation to a space and Erin is working with objects from her childhood memories and placing the paintings within those objects, namely cigar boxes. This work is engaging and relative to everyone in its concept,” remarked owner David Tosti.

Erin’s current body of work is a hybrid of drawing, painting and sculpture, utilizing found objects as a housing structure for the image. The cigar box (found object) is suspended off the wall by welded scaffolding, simulating a half constructed/exposed building, supporting the architecturally inspired imagery of the cityscape seen through the filter of a northwestern skyline. Through her work, Erin struggles to reconstruct visual and physical experiences, by peeling away the entangled layers of the visual world as we think we understand it, by blueprinting its complexities in a much more simplified, atmospheric way hoping for understanding and solidity.

When painting a simple still life Ryan uses basic formal concepts, focusing on the ideas of form and placement via illusionary space and actual space. In experimenting with these techniques he engages the viewer to contemplate the very ideas about what constructs an image. His current series explores this idea of art as a process of constructing images. By reducing the subject down to little more than forms in space, repeating the use of specific objects, and depicting each object life sized, the focus of the work becomes the composition of the object rather than the individual object itself.

Presented in a modern fashion amidst the Villa buildings’ “old Tuscany” charm, Tosti Studios is bold yet inviting. Together with local emerging artists, it has made its mark. “Over the years I have had several friends graduate from the college, and I have been continually inspired by the work that comes from their hard work and talent,” said David. He aspires to draw contemporary work from emerging artists - to introduce work that is contemporary and lends a different approach than many other galleries.

Whether it be mixed media or photography, Tosti strives to provide artists with a distinctive platform in Laguna. “As an art lover and photographer, I’m so grateful to be able to offer this space to share the work that’s going on at the college as well as in and outside of our community.”

Images

Cohiba, multimedia by Erin Metzdorf

Extension Cord, watercolor by Ryan Schroeder

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Founded on Classical Drawing Skills, Fueled by Creative Energy, and Dedicated to Excellence

Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.

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Laguna College of Art & Design is a proud member of the Laguna Beach Alliance for the Arts