

Frank Kallop gets real with surrealism

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Sure he can do still lifes and portraiture and a myriad of other genres. But what Frank Kallop really seems to enjoy is surrealism, a style he's worked in for about 15 years.

His "Allegory of Time," a large 50" x 72" acrylic on canvas that is part of his show "The Elements of Style" at SOMA NewArt Gallery from Saturday, July 9 to Aug. 7, is an ideal example of his enjoyment of this particular style. And his execution of this piece is a story unto itself.



SOMA / PROVIDED

'Allegory of Time' took months for Frank Kallop to complete. The finished version can be seen at SOMA in Cape May from Saturday, July 9, to Aug. 7.

"I like to go (paint) somewhere that has significance to me. For this painting I went to a spot in Strathmere where I surf — a bulkhead," he says. "I tacked a large piece of unstretched canvas to it and I rubbed on the grain of the bulkhead.

"I went back to the studio and laid it on the floor ... started splattering acrylics and dripping translucent paint (on it), building several layers to see reflectivity and changes in color."

He started seeing things in the abstractions he created while painting on the ground by "tapping into the subconscious." His puerile and spontaneous floor painting technique then moved to the wall, where he worked on it with an equally childlike exuberance.

"Once I got a good amount of imagery (on the floor), I tacked it on the wall, got my brushes and painted what I was seeing in the abstractions. It was similar to being a kid and seeing a horse in the clouds. I let my mind wander to bring out this imagery that was calling to me ... and then refined it. I left the ego out of it."

After working on it for months, the end result resembles an underwater coral scene of "something that may have been one thing but eroded into something else over time." He put the tiny figure in for effect, as he wanted the coral-like image to seem "monumental."

Surrealism aside, this Cumberland County resident who is inspired by nature is equally adept at a variety of other styles, and is thrilled that SOMA is including a few of them in his exhibit.

"I'm happy that SOMA wanted to show three of my different styles," Kallop states. "Often galleries want one thematic representation for consistency. I'm quite delighted that they chose different styles."

Kallop's show — during which two other exhibits will take place: "Ocean of Consciousness" by Jim Inzero and "Rediscovery" by Marty Santry — will also include still lifes, smaller surrealistic paintings and a few narratives.

Kallop, who has also lived and worked in San Francisco and New York City, as well as had his work represented in galleries in Seattle and New Orleans, claims that Cape May's SOMA is right up there with galleries in larger cities.

"I really like the way they run the gallery — it's kind of run like a New York gallery," he says. "I'm delighted with the way they operate and happy to be associated with it."

FRANK KALLOP'S 'THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE'

Where: SOMA NewArt Gallery, Carpenters Square Mall, 31 Perry St., Cape May

When: Saturday, July 9, to Aug. 7. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Artist's reception: 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 9. Free and open to the public.

More info: Call 609-898-7488 or go to SOMAGallery.net