

## VISUAL ARTS

# Don't miss dual exhibit at Cornell

After paying tens of thousands of dollars in tuition, I thought I should check up on my investment so I went to Rollins College last weekend during alumni week.

The campus gets prettier every year; the Olin Library still has a great collection of works by Alexander Calder; bikinis are still in fashion at the lakeside pool; and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum just gets better and better.

There is a well-curated dual exhibit running now through next Sunday. "An American Collection" includes a superb group of paintings from the National Academy of Design (that "NA" after an artist's name means she or he has been selected as a member). A luminous, romanticized landscape by Frederic Church is my favorite; the biggest "name" piece is probably the double whammy portrait of Claude Monet by John Singer Sargent.

The other exhibit is a selection of works by NA artists from the Cornell's own extensive collection, including pieces by Thomas Hart Benton and Albert Bierstadt. Just when the traditional landscapes and portraits were getting a bit heavy, I exited through the small Knapp Gallery and enjoyed its more contemporary works by Wolf Kahn, Motherwell, the De Koonings, et al. This is your last week to see this exhibit; call 407-646-1595.

### Fringe benefit

As many of you know, the Fringe Festival lost thousands of dollars in equipment in a recent fire, almost all that was needed to operate the festival. The FF has become a popular and successful annual Orlando event, and it is set to begin again, on schedule, in a few weeks. There will be a benefit auction for the Fringe at the new Creative Stages in Winter Park on April 28 from 3 to 6 p.m. They are currently accepting donations for the auction and, of course, cash. Call 407-647-4559 to con-



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**Lorraine Lax.** The artist's new show, "I'll Fly If I Want . . ." opens at OVAL Gallery & Studios in downtown Orlando as part of Third Thursday.

tribute or for more information.

### Time for a story

Anna McCambridge has come up with a neat concept for her opening Monday at the Peacock Room. The show is called "Story Hour" — Anna provides the characters in her highly rendered "anti-portraits," and you provide the story line. Sounds like fun. Not only can you enjoy her work and your own creativity, but the best author wins an original piece of art *and* an illustrated copy of the winning story. I love Anna's work, and I plan on WINNING! The free reception for those 21 and up (the Peacock Room is a bar, after all) is 8 to 10 p.m. at 1321 N. Mills Ave. Call 407-228-0048.

### Third Thursdays continue

It's Third Thursday time *again*. All of downtown, Eola Park Central and Thornton Park will have artists and special happenings. Most events are free. The single best art event that night will probably be the opening of Lorraine Lax's new show, "I'll Fly If I Want . . ." at OVAL Gallery & Studios from 6 to 9 p.m. Lorraine's work can be found in many local residences and commercial buildings, including the swanky EO Inn beside Lake Eola Park. Call 407-648-1819.

### On the east side

My favorite art program in our area is at Valencia Community College East Campus. To find out why, stop by Friday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for the annual student show. Awards will be presented at 7:45. Call 407-299-5000, ext. 2298.

### Party at the Mennello

The best event this week has to be the Festival of Southern Art and Culture presented by the Mennello Museum in Loch Haven Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many famous regional folk artists will be there, and there will be storytellers, dancers, live music and, of course, lots of good ol' Southern food. Best of all, admission is free. Don't miss it. Call 407-246-4278.

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