

'Performance Sculptor' Coppola Exhibits Internal, Temporal Pieces



Photos and general info courtesy www.floridaartistsregistry.com

For February 2005, art6 artist and member **Andy Coppola** will be exhibiting **Orlando Furioso**, which is both the show's title and the collective of artists of which Coppola is a member. February 4 – 27. First Friday reception Feb. 4, 7-10pm.

Included in the exhibition are works by 'OF' members **Cheryl Bogdanowitsch, Andy Coppola, David Lee Cumbie, Timothy James Easley, Johann Eyfells, Kristin Eyfells, Frank Gady, Bill Gallagher, Walter Gaudnek, Homer L. Hartage, Charles Hodges, Woody Igou, Calvert LaFollette, Marlene London, R.V. Arsdol, Dean Stuart Warren, Tiphonie Windsor-Perez, Laura Weston, and M. Laine Wyatt.**

"I am creating art from the inside out. Materials, positions, movement, no movement, and environment refer directly to what is going on within."
—**Andy Coppola**

With these words and this philosophy, artist **Andy Coppola** lays out his artistic vision and some strangely evocative pieces, what Coppola refers to as "living sculpture."

"Coppola's work lies somewhere between (and conjures images of) the sobering sculptures and installations of **George Segal**, the performers of **Cirque de Soleil**, the **Tattooed Man**, **Tony Randall** in **The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao**, **Marlon Brando's** errant **Colonel Kurtz** in fellow Coppola namesake's (**Francis Ford's**) **Apocalypse Now**, even lead singer **Wendy O'Williams** of punk rock **Plasmatics** fame, or at times like something from a **George Romero** film or **Pinhead** from the **Hellraiser** films—all could be claimed—but in the end the creations are uniquely Coppola's.

There is a strong sense of the cosmopolitan and 'Italianate' to Coppola's work, a kind of skewed (neo)-classicism to his 'sculpture' and various personae—this peculiar amalgam of repose, performance, sculpture, and journaling, but also touching on larger issues of introspection, self-possession, seriality and the temporal in art—this may indeed amount to 'exhibition'ism as exhibition.

And in its pageantry and spectacle, its colors and exuberant palette, Coppola's mountings and stagings—(indeed much of the 'OF' pieces)—seem much in the tradition of the resplendent, itinerant court jesters, minstrels and harlequins of medieval and Renaissance Italy and Europe—even at times displaying an 'industrial,' post-modernist 'shock and awe' daring and rhetoric—and all with a healthy dose and nod to master absurdist **Federico Fellini's** strange and surreal cast of characters and creatures. Bravo!"

Coppola further: "My installation entitled **I S O (In Search OF**, bottom right on back) at **Postarte** [Gallery] in Milan, explores one idea through a series of performances involving a living sculpture. Each action reflects one common theme while [exploring] an individual event within the evolution of that idea. This experience is only finalized for the audience and me through all eighteen performances. The remnants of each performance are left in the gallery each day as witness to the occurrences. Documentation, as well as extensive writing about my state of mind, before, during, and after each performance, is added upon completion to gain further insight into what this living sculpture represented.

I S O is an effort to find myself, to uncover my mind, body, and soul. The thesis for these events was announced in the first performance at the opening of the **Orlando Furioso** exhibit at the Postarte gallery. With the words, 'There comes a time in a man's life when he has to give up childish things,' curator/artist **R.V. (Robin Van Arsdol)** began to scalp the hair from my head. I was a sculpture covered in clay a couple of hours prior, along with a Styrofoam replica of myself. With the placement of my hair upon my replica's head, symbolically I was free."

Orlando Furioso is an Orlando, Florida-based artists' group who combine abstract and narrative painting, installation, assemblage and (bronze) sculpture, erotic and spiritual photography, as well as diverse performance art. The members of the avant-garde 'OF' have exhibited widely (Milan, and Venice, Italy; Steinhagen, Germany; Florida and New York), and its artists range from the regionally to the internationally recognized, including Floridians **Johann Eyfells** of Oviedo, **Walter Gaudnek** of New Smyrna, and artist **Laura Weston** of Maitland.

All of the artists exhibiting are included in the book **Orlando Furioso American Art: Central Florida Artists**. The book offers exquisite color photographs of each artist's work, as well as bios and statements from the artists.

For more info about this exhibition and other upcoming art6 events, visit www.art6.org or phone 804.343.1406. To contact the editor of art6 and **BroadStrokes** or to inquire about being a guest writer or reviewer, phone **Thomas M. Humphrey** at 804.794.7579. art6 is located at 6 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Gallery hours are Wed.-Sun., 12-4pm. —We invite you to attend.

And just a reminder to stop by **Shop6** — art6's 'unique gift' shop —featuring original, one-of-a-kind works of fine art priced under \$100. The **Orlando Furioso** book is available for purchase at **Shop6** (open regular gallery hours). —Part of the proceeds from the sale of **Shop6** items go right back into the gallery to help fund and underwrite art6's diverse offering of outstanding exhibitions, performances and events.

The **Art'o'mat** (a refitted cigarette vending machine) is also stocked and ready to dispense to you your own 'pack' of limited edition, miniature artwork. Critic-General's WARNING: 'Smoking kills—but art enriches.' TMH



