

SWA SELECTS

Artists to Watch



COLUMBUS STREET BY LANA RAK

Lana Rak

Originally from Kiev, Ukraine, Lana Rak now calls the San Francisco area home. She began drawing at age 4 and was admitted to the Republican School of Fine Art in Kiev when she was 12. Today, at 33, Rak focuses her artistic eye on a range of subjects, including city scenes, landscapes, still lifes, and figures. In terms of her favorite things to paint, however, she lists water, air, light, and their transformation throughout the day. "I like ordinary things observed carefully and portrayed unusually," she says.

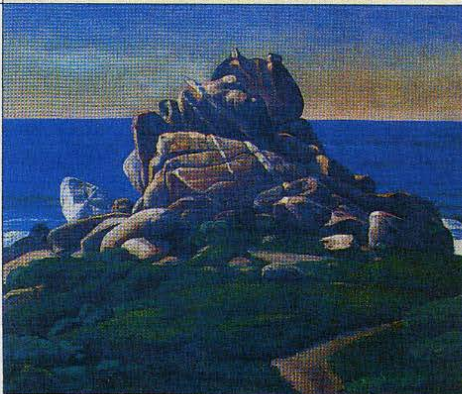
Rak's affection for depicting the city stems from the fact that she feels most comfortable in urban environments, where she has lived her entire life. "I spend most of my days in San Francisco or in traffic," she explains. "This is my reality." For Rak, a good painting is a complete >

Ian Ingram

For nearly three years, Ian Ingram has spent a great deal of time looking at himself. Not that the 31-year-old artist is vain—he's just been working on a series of self-portraits in charcoal and pastel. The drawings are tightly rendered, but rather than exuding a sense of realism, they take the viewer to a dreamlike place. "I may draw my face with intense detail and then surround it with elements from imagination," he explains. In *A BOY AND HIS BRUEGEL (WHERE'S MY BIKE AT?)*, for example, Ingram depicts himself wearing a hat formed from a Pieter Bruegel painting he saw while on a bike trip in Vienna.

The artist begins each new piece with a question in mind. As he starts drawing and something beautiful emerges, he says, the question begins to resolve itself. "The act of rendering is very cleanly meditative," he states. "It allows for those musings to surface where they will." Ingram is inspired by his travels around the world. His next destination is India, and although he says the resulting works >

A BOY AND HIS BRUEGEL (WHERE'S MY BIKE AT?) BY IAN INGRAM



MONUMENT BY DAVID MOLESKY

David Molesky

California-based painter David Molesky knows that many people his age are drawn to pop culture. But he is attracted to far older subjects, including mythology, ancient cultures, and natural wonders such as oceans and rocks. Molesky, 27, lives in Monterey, close to the scenic Pacific coastline he captures on canvas. "At this point in the history of art it seems futile to try to be even more new and original," he says. "I would rather concentrate on the timelessness of the rocks and the sea."

Although he was born in Washington, DC, and grew up on the East Coast, Molesky was drawn to the West as a teenager. In 1995, he moved to the Bay Area to attend the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor's degree in fine art.

These days he regularly heads out on his bicycle to >

Ian Ingram *continued*

may include a few self-portraits, the series is coming to an end. Expect something that breaks the mold from the up-and-coming artist in the near future. Ingram's work is on view beginning September 16 at the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira, NY, in a show called *Representing Representation VII*. He is represented by Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.

—Julie Osterman