

Manville's March show features Texas artist

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The March exhibit in the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Manville Gallery will feature bronze and ceramic sculptures, called the "Venus Series," by Texas artist Princess Anne Cook.

In 1986, Cook began the "Venus Series" which is a combination of the mythical venus and the prehistoric earth mother and goddess concepts. According to the artist, "Venus is a wide-hipped (which refers to fertility and nurturing), one armed (refers to Venus de Milo) female figure with a bird head, bird foot and feathers (the bird is a symbol of spiritual transcendence).

She has also written a history for her venus character, which is written as though from the future, looking back into the past (our present). "This history, which I have named 'The Cosmic Consciousness in Pre-History' is also a part of my art, as it is my comment on the notions of art history and criticism, as the very strange, and sometimes alien, activities they are."

She explains that "artists have historically been observers and commentators on the doings and mores of their government and the society in which they live. It is no different now.

"Looking back at the work that I have completed in this series, it looks like, I, too, have taken more than my fair share of pokes at the government, with such works as "Venus Pickets Washington" (peace versus militarism); and "Venus Gone South - - the true story behind the Contra aid money" (political scandal).

"The mentality problems and mores of the 1980s (yuppie) are examined in "The Price" (materialism/power/loneliness); and "Venus of 42nd Street" and "Venus, la Dame de Coeur Brise" examine prostitution. "Venus Out of Control" is about alcohol or drugs and "From the Frying Pan..." is about personal relationships.

Cook earned her bachelors of fine arts and master of fine arts degrees from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has exhibited extensively in Texas and also was part of the "Texas Women Exhibition," at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C..

The opening reception for the "Venus Series" will be held Monday, March 6, from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Manville Gallery and the public is invited.

Gallery hours at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.