

## Neo-Surrealism Display from Natasha Dikareva and Vladimir Dikarev

BY JULIA HAMANN

**A**RTISTS NATASHA DIKAREVA AND VLADIMIR DIKAREV present their works at Concordia's "Return to Concordia" which opened Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Within Vladimir Dikarev's captivating neo-surrealist pieces and Natasha Dikareva's gleaming clay-porcelain statuettes can be seen incorporations of symbolism inspired by Eastern spirituality and philosophy. The gallery is awash with beautiful pastels, delicate statuettes and free-flowing feminine lines giving the air a rich, colorful aura.

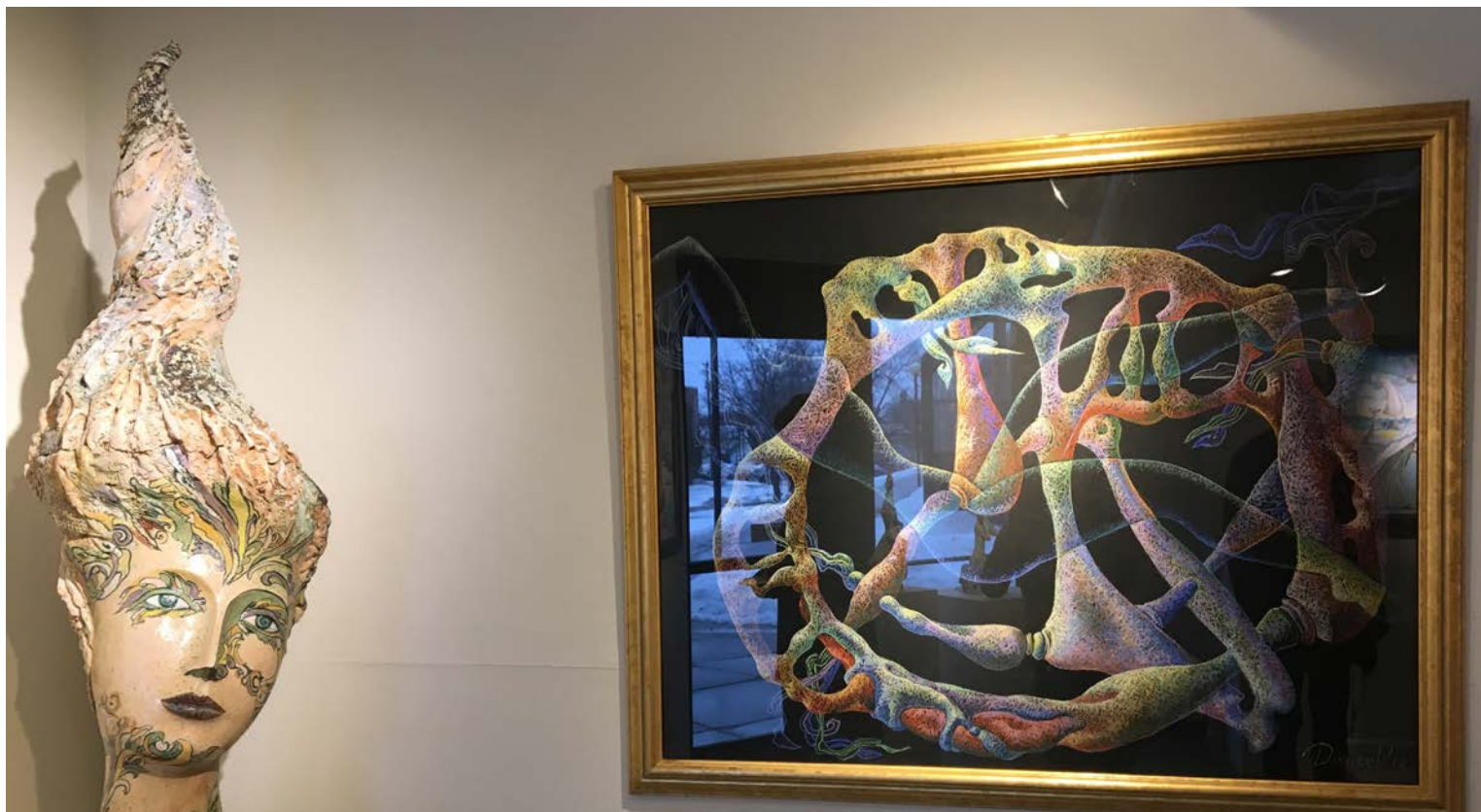
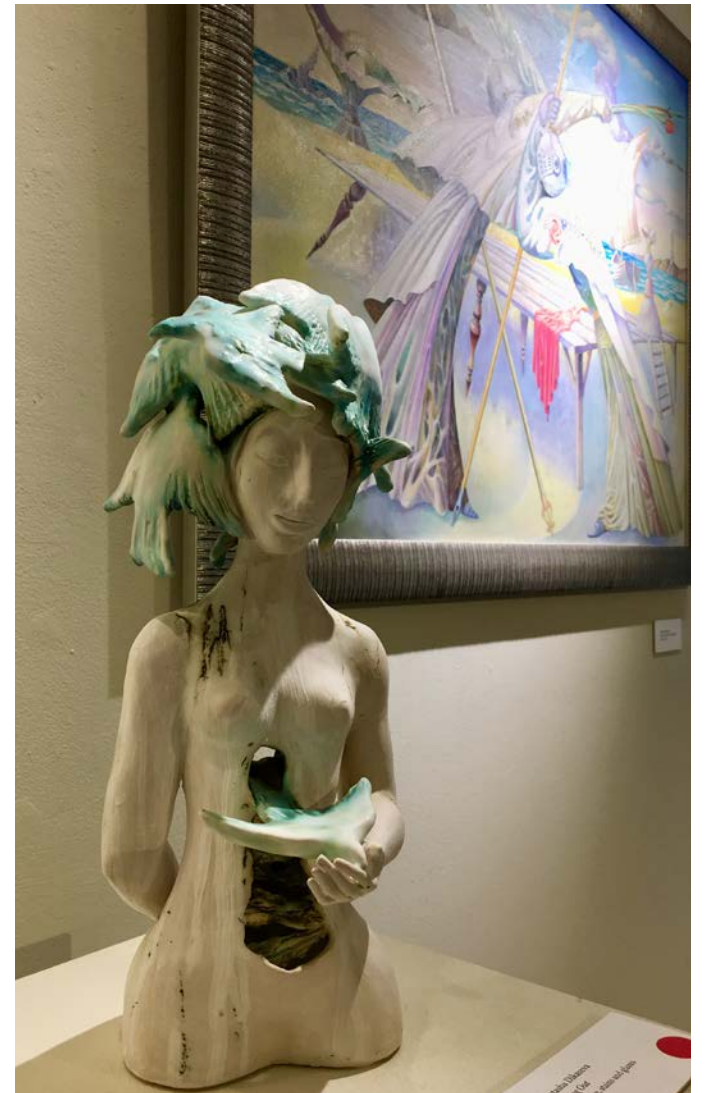


The pieces from both artists complement one another as both share mystical and feminine qualities within most of the works shown. Dikareva and Dikarev use their works as a medium to express the intangible, elusive things of dream-like dimensions, or as Natasha Dikareva says, "between the physical present and the imaginative future". This is shown through her statuettes depicting women of the Eastern European nations and Asia. One work in particular titled "Queen Bee" depicts a bust of a woman and an organic, rough crown atop her head and base as though nature has a part in the statuette's creation.

Natasha Dikareva was born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine prior to the Chernobyl disaster of April 1986. Due to nuclear decontamination of the surroundings many Ukrainians like Dikareva were moved to evacuate. Dikareva fled to the United States and joined Concordia University as a Resident Artist. Dikareva had already established herself as a ceramic sculpture artist in Ukraine, so she worked and succeeded in reinstating herself now where she resides in San Francisco, CA. Eventually more of her family immigrated to the United States, including her mentor, an already well-established illustrator, painter and educator, Vladimir Dikarev.

Both Dikareva and Dikarev allow themselves be the vessel in which the art is translated to the physical realm humanity inhabits. Vladimir Dikarev's process is inspired by ancient Chinese artists who allow the tools to lead the hands. Most of Dikarev's works depict complex, neo-surrealist scenes comprised of fluidity and chaos. Dikarev states: "My study of philosophy, literature, poetry, and religion has informed my painting and drawings, particularly when these ways of understanding the world preserve and enhance what is most human about us.". Dikarev shares messages using a collage of metaphors and symbolism in which each piece acts as a visual story.

The pieces brought forth by the hands of these two gifted artists are able to touch the soul. Concordia is blessed to host the works of Natasha Dikareva and Vladimir Dikarev whom have each dedicated their life and themselves to their art. †



**(Natasha Dikareva's and Vladimir Dikarev's collections are on display until April 10th)**

*Photography provided by Broke Steigauf*

*Captured on this page are pieces being displayed in the gallery for the Dikarev's collection.*