

Roq la Rue Gallery presents

Tiki Art Now! volume 3

Modern Art Inspired by a Primitive Past

Curated by Otto von Stroheim of Tiki News magazine

Opening reception: Friday, September 15, 2006, 6 pm - 9 pm

Exhibit shows September 15 - October 7, 2006

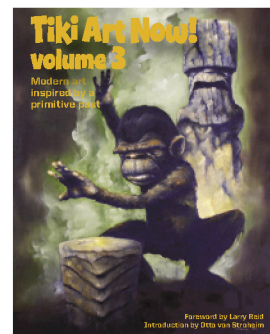
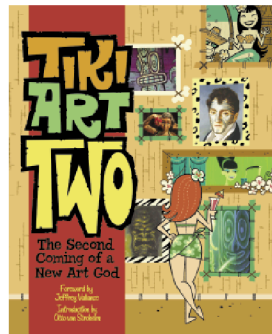
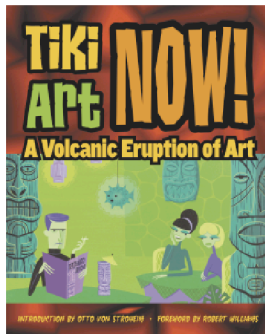
Contact: Kirsten Anderson

2312 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121 • info@roqlarue.com • 206-374-8977

www.roqlarue.com • Gallery hours: Wed/Thu 1 - 6; Fri 1-7; Sat 1 - 6

Gallery exhibit: On Friday, September 15, 2006 Roq la Rue Gallery & Tiki News unveil the third annual exhibit of new work from the top artists in the Tiki art scene and artists who have been uniquely inspired to create Tiki related works. Otto's Tiki art shows have become known as the top group shows of Tiki art and the site of this show, Roq la Rue, is one of the most respected galleries presenting art from the Lowbrow scene.

The exhibit features sixteen artists from across the US, Canada, Germany and Japan, including: Shag, Lisa Petrucci, Bosko, Tim Biskup, Mr. G, Brian Barneclo, Wayne Coombs, Davey (Dave Wong), Crazy Al Evans, Dawn Frasier, Thorsten Hasenkamm, Munktiki Paul & Stuckie, Tiki Tony, Heather Watts, Derek Yaniger and Burke Tyree. Highlights of the show include new ceramics by Munktiki, carvings by Old School master Tiki carver Wayne Coombs of Mai Tiki, and rarely seen vintage velvet paintings by Burke Tyree.



Exhibition catalog

All pieces from the exhibit are captured in a full color catalog available opening night. (PDF version or color proof version available upon request)

Published by Slave labor Graphics, the catalog features an introduction by Pop culture historian and velvet painting enthusiast Larry Reid, and foreword by Tikimiester Otto von Stroheim, publisher of Tiki News.

A little bit about Tiki Style

What is Tiki?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a Tiki as “a wooden or stone image of a Polynesian God.”

While fans of Tiki Style might border on religious fanaticism in their love for all things Tiki and their obsession for collecting Tiki mugs and menus, the Tikis they worship are wholly American artistic creations.

In its heyday the decor, food and music used in Tiki bars was referred to as South Seas, Polynesian, or Exotica and later simply as Tiki. Today, the umbrella term Tiki is used to describe the entire gamut of Pan Polynesian arts that were applied in those restaurants and bars from the late 1930s to the mid 1970s. *Book of Tiki* author Sven Kirsten dubbed it “Polynesian Pop.” I prefer to call it Tiki Style and recognize it as a bona fide art movement. Whatever you call it, it’s back and it’s getting bigger.

The Coming of a New Art God

Despite Tiki’s mainstream popularity in the 50s and 60s, no one had recognized Tiki Style as an art movement or gathered the creations into a gallery show. In 1996 I co-curated “20th Century Tiki” at La Luz de Jesus Gallery. It was the first Tiki art gallery show ever and spawned many others around the country. The success of that show and the publicity it generated sparked the current Tiki art movement. In 2004 I curated Tiki Art Now! to showcase the breadth of the movement. For this exhibit, I chose a handful of artists whose work I not only enjoy but highly respect as excellent examples of the movement. Some of the artists are well-known, integral figures within the Tiki movement (Bosko, Crazy Al, Tiki Tony, etc.), while some of them may not necessarily be associated with Tiki art but have been uniquely inspired to create beautiful Polynesian Pop pieces (Lisa Petrucci, Tim Biskup, KRK Ryden). I am also excited to be presenting for the first time in a west coast gallery the art of Wayne Coombs of Mai Tiki. Wayne has been making his living off carving Tikis since being released from the State Pen in 1975. he’s known as the father of the Florida style of Tiki having served as mentor to dozens of now-professional Tiki carvers. Also of special note are the vintage velvets of Tyree. A contemporary and protege of Edgar Leeteg, Tyree’s technique and composition arguably surpassed that of the legendary master of velvet. Rarely seen on exhibit or for sale, these are a valuable piece of pre-Tiki art history.

- Otto von Stroheim, Tiki News magazine, www.tikinews.com