

Choose your course

online



+



ON CAMPUS

Advance your career your way
with a DeVry degree.

Learn More.

Keller
 Graduate School
 of Management
 of DeVry University

CITYLIFE

[WWW.LASVEGASCITYLIFE.COM](http://www.lasvegascitylife.com)
[Home](#) | [Local News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Thursday, September 29, 2005

 Review-Journal
 PERSONALS

So good you can taste it

 Fine art meets fine cuisine as painters take to the walls at Rosemary's in *H2O IV*

BY KELLE SCHILLACI

There's a joke running through Erica Deutsch's collection of four works -- one not entirely obvious but in the seeking. But it's there -- in the not-so-fashionable shorts, the sandals paired with socks, the clutched plastic drink cups and shopping bags. Those are tourists, all right. Deutsch, a Vegas-based artist, claims to have painted over 15,000 people since arriving in Las Vegas in 2002. With her keen eye for tourists, it's clear this artist won't run out of subjects any time soon.

Deutsch's work is part of a subtle yet uniquely divergent collection of watercolors hanging at Rosemary's Restaurant on the west side. The exhibit, *H2O IV*, features work of eight UNLV students in Mary Warner's watercolor course. During the opening reception, Warner tells me there would have been a couple more artists involved, but given the venue she had to omit a couple pieces, which will instead be shown in UNLV's alumni gallery. What remains, however, represents a strong cross-section of the work currently being done in the department.

Stephanie Bray's work took this former Los Angeleno back to her old apartment in the Mid-Wilshire district, and the snarls and hooks of unkempt Birds of Paradise that cloyed the front entrance of the 1920s building.

"Looks like L.A.," I say when introduced to the soft-spoken artist, who confirms my suspicion. Her boldly colored close-ups of reeds, aloe and cactus flower are positively luscious -- even better than the real thing, in some cases. Then again, I've always thought Birds of Paradise lend themselves better to artistic recreation.

Kalena Patton's collection of faintly traced and color-washed portraits have an ethereal, ghostly quality, as if the barely-there, wide-eyed and full-lipped inhabitants are attempting to actually escape their canvas entrapment and join you for a cup of coffee along the back wall of the restaurant -- maybe share with you the soy-marinated bistro filet.

From a background in ballroom dancing to a present fascination with color and story, Janet Greek offers a collection of vaguely narrative figural pieces. A dirty blonde gestures blind-eyed from beside the bar in "Nightclub," while a series of portraits succeed by the merit of a single, captured expression.

Near the very back of the dining room, Jennifer Rapalo shows off the fact that she is really into Japanese anime and manga -- a passionate hobby the painter has managed to turn toward a fine arts career in exquisitely detailed watercolors such as "Bleach, Vol. 16."

Rounding out the series with several untitled pieces are Carol Van Wagoner's landscape and farm equipment explorations, Teresa Mattingly's hauntingly beautiful abstracts, and Marylou Evans' portrait of a crane-necked dressing-room girl.

As a whole, the collection begs the question: What better compliments a creole-spiced New York Strip than a lovely watercolor? Okay, maybe a juicy cabernet. But why not have it all? It's an idea that merits support, this merging of fine and culinary arts, and this show is part of an ongoing series of installations at Rosemary's, with the support of UNLV MFA candidate Wendy Kveck.

"Many of the patrons at Rosemary's were excited to see original artwork," Kveck says, whose work also dons the restaurant walls, "It was a way to show them a greater variety of contemporary, local artists, and, likewise, to give artists exposure in another venue which had been a positive experience for myself."

Earlier incarnations of the art-meets-food exhibits focused on the more obvious art-meets-food theme, but nowadays these rotating, three-month exhibits are offering a new kind of venue for checking out the work of local artists. Look for Susanne Forestieri to grace the walls in a largely figurative charcoal drawing exhibit early next year, as well as a city-focused exhibit later this year, to offer one final artistic nod to our well-hyped Centennial.

H2O IV

Through Oct. 15

Rosemary's Restaurant

8125 W. Sahara

869-2251

[Back to index](#)
[Email this story](#)
[Print this story](#)


Erica Deutsch's "Woman with Yellow Hat"

Advertisement

**LIVE LIKE
 A QUEEN
 LAS VEGAS STYLE**

 Find some choice deals
 on hotel/air/car & more.

 Research your next
 Vegas getaway by
 checking out the
 Travel section on
reviewjournal.com
**LIVE LIKE
 A QUEEN
 LAS VEGAS STYLE**

 Find some choice deals
 on hotel/air/car & more.

 Research your next
 Vegas getaway by
 checking out the
 Travel section on
reviewjournal.com
**LIVE LIKE
 A QUEEN
 LAS VEGAS STYLE**

 Find some choice deals
 on hotel/air/car & more.

 Research your next
 Vegas getaway by
 checking out the
 Travel section on
reviewjournal.com