

The current exhibit at Quarry Cove Art Gallery, titled "Ebb and Flow," is dramatic and exciting. The paintings of Fran Simontacchi and ceramic works of Samantha Morris Tripp reveal a personal, creative journey. There is a rhythmical pattern and energy in their work that reminds us of the natural environment.

Simontacchi, a self-taught artist, enchants with her fluid use of acrylics. Her paintings convey an abstract story of nature and color that flow and move across the canvas. Fran chooses to designate most of her pieces "Untitled," which enables the viewer the freedom to express impressions and discoveries that determine what the artist is conveying.

"Ocean Sunset" reveals a vibrant explosion of sky and sun striking the wild sea below. This painting grabs your attention with the repetition and movement of line, shape, and color. In complete contrast, "Sound of Darkness" evokes a deep, dark planetary feeling of a vast atmosphere. Symbolizing one of the millions of galaxies in our universe, the artist has us mesmerized and lost in the spatial experience.

Growing up in the Rocky Mountains, ceramic artist Samantha Morris Tripp creates work that emphasizes the physical world. She is attracted to the clay or "mud," and manipulates it in a way that surprises on inspection. Her vases, cups, and bowls are formed deliberately with curved edges, using a spontaneous drip technique. The glaze falls haphazardly onto each earthen container to create a unique and unplanned design. Tripp embraces each crack, bump, and bruise as an intentional part of her work. The finished art is not only sustainable and usable but aesthetically pleasing.

The cool coastal colors of Tripp's tall vases are reminiscent of the ocean tides. From top to bottom, the colors ripple like waves. One of her medium vases is a deep shade of purple, with one side of the piece covered with a distinctive texture that appears to be suction cups on a squid tentacle. Her pieces are imaginative and original, reflecting life along the Pacific Ocean coastline.

Both artists use nature, movement, and color as their inspiration. Love of nature is expressed on the canvas, using a spectrum of colors, while movement is demonstrated in the steady stream of paint and the skillful handling of the clay. Their work is a collaboration with the audience; we ride the ebb and flow of the artists' creations.

Join us at Quarry Cove Gallery for the artists' reception on Saturday, October 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. You will have the opportunity to meet the artists, discuss their work, and enjoy light refreshments. The gallery is at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, Pacifica. Hours for this exhibit are Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Saturday, November 3.

Donna M. Doney