



COURTESY PHOTO

Paul Pisoni Entropy inks on styrene panel

Gallery takes an 'Inside' look at abstract paintings

By KEVIN COSTELLO
CORRESPONDENT

The 11 artists and their very different methods and attitudes to making abstract art in "It's Inside" at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art go beyond the usual mid-level quality of summer shows.

The intent of abstract art — like that of music — is not to elicit "meaning" in the literal sense, but in the emotional sense of that which touches our inner selves before words get in the way and reduce the experience to the pale equivalency of written thought.

Too often, those who have little regard for abstract art ask, "What does it mean?" rather than "How does it feel?" To ask in the literal sense what a symphony means is as pointless as asking what an abstract paintings means. It is more pertinent to acknowledge the primacy of one's feelings before either form of expression.

Among the artists in this exhibit is the Miami-based painter Luisa Basnuevo, who represents her life experiences

[ART REVIEW]

It's Inside

On display through Sept. 29 at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art, 556 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. Call 366-2093 or access miramararts.com.

through black and brown camphor seed shapes.

Simple forms resting upon a white, gray-blue terrain express internalized emotions, feelings and memory. The vigor of her brushwork affirms both the flatness of the surface and the implicit vastness of the space within which her seed pods rest.

Bianca Pratorius, a German born, Miami-based painter, works in the ancient and difficult medium of encaustic, a technique in which pigment is sealed and applied in hot wax, giving the luminosity of polished fruit to the painted surface.

Recently, she has paled her palette, creating contrast for her shapes with outlines or

sections of black or dark blue. Her paintings suggest the inner skein of a city's fabric of stone and steel, rather than the facades of buildings — a sense of structure she connects to her own sense of physical being, gained in the practice of Vinayasa, a physically demanding form of yoga.

Also recently relocated to Miami is New York painter Paul Ayers Pisoni, who is interested in imaging the emotional experience of nonlinear space. His paintings combine images of a variety of things, including butterflies, floating spheres and ribbons of organic matter, drifting in a vortex of infinite space.

He achieves his effects with colored inks on styrene (a form of plastic sheeting) used full strength or diluted with denatured alcohol. His imagery derives from an interest in theoretical physics, Eastern philosophy and shamanism.

It is the new traditionalism in art that in the skillful hands of authentic visual poets can nonetheless generate a new music of form and color for fresh eyes to see and feel.