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New Exhibitions Open at the Morean Arts



The Morean Arts Center will be following up its successful Keep it Glassy, St. Pete! show with a new twist on the common theme of “narrative”. Opening Saturday, March 8, these shows will feature six artists, both local and national, to continue the tradition of focusing on Tampa Bay’s abundant local talent while exposing visitors to art and artists outside this region.

Amanda Cooper, Curator of Exhibitions at the Morean Arts Center, describes the idea of narrative art “as the type of work that you can get lost in, that you have to really take the time to look at. All artwork in these exhibitions tell a story and each of the artists incorporates the figure into their work, so they are very accessible”, she continued.

Two local artists will be featured in their own solo shows - Diane Elmeer (Tampa, FL) and Carol Dameron (St. Petersburg, FL). Neither of these artists have exhibited at the Morean Arts Center previously and the majority of the Morean’s gallery space has been dedicated to showcasing these two local artists.

Diane is Professor Emerita of art at the University of South Florida (and also a USF graduate). Of Sticks and Stones, Leaves and Grass is her first solo show in over 10 years, and will showcase new art that no one has yet seen. Her large-scale paintings of figures in fantastical landscapes are both whimsical and profound. She uses the people and places in her Seminole Heights neighborhood as a springboard for works that borrow heavily from mythology and symbolism.

Carol Dameron is a local artist known for her portraiture. Her latest series of paintings, Barcelona, stemmed from a serious snake bite her daughter suffered while visiting that Spanish city. Themes of life and death, joy and pain are common themes in her work.

The third exhibition, Storytellers, highlights the work of 4 artists: Ian Everett and Amy Lee, both from the Tampa Bay area, and I-Ling Eleen Lin (NYC) and Stuart Asprey (OK). These four artists were selected from a group of over 60 artists from all over the country who submitted work for this show. Each artist incorporates animals or mythical creatures in their work, some with biting humor. A strong narrative thread ties these artists and their work together seamlessly.

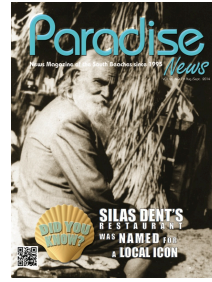
Ian Everett is a recent graduate of Ringling College of Art + Design, and Amy Lee is an elementary art teacher in Tampa. Eleen Lin holds an MFA from Yale and Stuart Asprey is a professor at Oklahoma University.

All three shows will be on view starting March 8 through April 27. Also on view: PCCA Senior Thesis Exhibitions and I See the Rhythm: Word & Image Middle and High School Exhibitions. The Opening Night Reception is FREE and open to the public from 5-8PM. A special preview reception for Morean Members will be held Friday, March 7 from 5-7PM.

Keep in touch with the Morean Arts Center via a variety of social media channels and get involved directly with a new viral project kicking off March 8. Visit the Morean Arts Center, take a picture of any of the works exhibited and try your hand at creating a story line inspired by these narrative works. Post online and enter to win prizes. More information available at [facebook.com/Morean Arts Center](https://www.facebook.com/MoreanArtsCenter) or @MoreanArts on twitter.

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