



The 2nd Annual Circus Show & Other Atrocities

THE CIRCUS SHOW VENUES:

May 30, 2008

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Amazing Artists:

This year, the World's Longest Artist-made Circus Train installation (where each artist creates a 9" x 12" image, depicting their interpretation of the life of a circus animal and each piece is hung end-to-end, forming a circus train) has over 100 artists from Sacramento and across the United States, Canada, and Europe – and will hang in the Verge Gallery from opening night (September 13th) through the end of the month.

Multi-Venue Involvement:

A Bitchin' Space www.abitchinspace.com

In October 2006, artist Gale Hart opened a gallery in downtown Sacramento, called *A Bitchin' Space*. The goal was to create a more connected, creative community – with *A Bitchin' Space* as the outlet. It started with a year-long project featuring collaborative work by area artists. Since the end of the collaborative project, *A Bitchin' Space* has hosted monthly shows with, as Victoria Dalkey, Sac Bee art critic said, some of "the freshest work." Indeed, as *A Bitchin' Space* hosted the first Circus Show & Other Atrocities in 2007.

A Bitchin' Space owner, Gale Hart is a self-taught artist whose career morphed from a childhood fascination with nuts and bolts to one that explores all mediums. In her mom's garage, Hart worked on one of her first 3-dimensional projects: covering an old tree trunk in sheets of metal. Her professional career started in her mid 20s, experimenting with acrylics, airbrush, sculpture and wood. 2- and 3-dimensional work (including furniture) have co-existed throughout Hart's artistic career.

In 2005, Hart's work undertook a huge transformation as she felt she wanted her art to educate and inspire change. "The atrocities being perpetrated on humans, animals, and the environment are staggering," stated Hart. "As individuals we cannot afford to be uninvolved with the welfare of the earth and all its inhabitants." This realization inspired her to change the content of her art, starting with a successful body of work called "Why Not Eat Your Pet," which was exhibited in galleries throughout Northern California and Los Angeles and covered by local and national media. "The Circus Show & Other Atrocities" is an outgrowth of that work mixed in with the success she had with the year-long collaborate project at her studio turned gallery, *A Bitchin' Space*. Last year, Hart was named "Best Visual Artist" by the Sacramento News & Review and currently serves as the Verge Gallery Project Manager.

Verge Gallery

Verge Gallery and Studio Project was dreamed and funded into existence by local entrepreneur, Jesse Powell, who wanted to "give back." Powell, who tested out of high school at 16, left college after 7 years (with no degree but about a million units that interested him), works full time as the CEO of a computer software company he co-founded that currently employs over 50 people in the US and around the world. When Powell wants something, he goes for it – like the big blue building on 19th and V streets – he is driven by what he can do to help others. He'll tell you his obsession is "saving the world" and that he believes in helping people and asking nothing more in return than for them to help someone else in need if they have the opportunity, "What might be a small favor for you could be a huge benefit to someone else. Take your

leftovers to go and give them to a homeless guy. There are a million little things you can do." Powell says, "If you want to live in a nice world, be a nice person."

There are at least 10 Sacramento artists who know Powell speaks the truth; his 10,000-square foot Verge Gallery and Studio Project houses 10 artist studios that he lets the artists work in at no charge. But this is no free ride, as the artists at Verge are serious and career-minded and their names list like a who's-who of Sacramento's top preeminent artists. Additionally, the 3,000-square foot gallery will be Sacramento's largest, with big plans to match, hosting museum quality shows from emerging to internationally recognized artists. "We're out to raise the bar even higher," said Verge Gallery Director Lisa Prettol. "Second Saturday has done amazing things for the Arts in Sacramento; the popularity has proven the interest is there." By rising the art bar even further, Verge hopes to entice more people to really spend time looking at art, in conjunction with the social part of Second Saturday. But don't think Verge can't throw a party! "The circus show will prove that we can throw one of the biggest and best parties in town," added Gale Hart, Verge Project Manager. "It will be a blast – but it will also have meaning."

Verge Gallery is located at 1900 V Street, Sacramento, CA 95818

Tangent Gallery www.tangent-gallery.com

Tangent Gallery presents an auxiliary component to the Circus Show with *Funhouse: Kinetic and Interactive Sculptures*. Stop by for a "moving" display of sensory surprises, enchanting vignettes and wondrous bafflement. This artist-run gem of a gallery, located just outside the outskirts of the grid, was established June of 2007. Tangent Gallery is located on Franklin Blvd at 4th Ave, just south of Gunther's Ice Cream.

Izzy's mini VanGo Gallery

Sacramento's smallest art gallery, Izzy's mini VanGo Gallery is driving off to join the circus for the September 2nd Saturday Artwalk. Transforming into the tented Izzy's mini 3 Ring Circus Gallery, complete with ringmaster and 3 Rings of fun-filled art. Well known Davis Ceramist Heidi Bekebrede's whimsical circus and animal sculptures fit right in. Additionally, inside the Verge gallery, Izzy is creating a "Hall of Shame" a video and educational installation on animals in the circus. Izzy's mini 3 Ring Circus Gallery will be located in the Verge parking lot, so you can easily step right up and join in the fun.

University Arts

Look for the circus-themed window display by Gale Hart showcased at Midtown's University Art store. University Art is a family owned business, established in 1948 and serving Northern California for over 50 years, now with five stores. The Sacramento University Art (formerly known as Taylor's Art Supplies), has recently been remodeled and increased it's art-supply stock and selection, specializing in fine art supplies, gifts and custom framing, located at 2601 J Street.