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Commentary: Bermingham's solo show on display at the Triton Museum

By Mary Ann Cook for Los Gatos Weekly Times Posted: 05/16/2011 07:32:58 PM PDT Updated: 05/16/2011 07:32:58 PM PDT

SOLO AT TRITON: Here's a man of many art parts. He's Los Gatan Lou Bermingham, and he has a solo show at the Triton Museum, on display until July 24. He's also noted for his martial arts: He ran Aikido of Los Gatos from 1986 to 2010 through the rec department and was its head instructor. He sold it to a colleague last year.

Another of Bermingham's art displays was the installation and set design for the Margaret Wingrove Dance Company at San Jose Stage in 1998. His degree in fine arts is from SJSU, where he worked primarily in glass. In fact, he was one of the artists who created the stained glass art windows in Carry Nation's.

Today he concentrates on painting and describes his style thusly: "I deal with universal themes of life, death and rebirth through the use of heavily textured surfaces, saturated colors, organic shapes, and esoteric symbols. My work is influenced by abstract art, ancient Egyptian art and cave paintings."

Awards include being named artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vt., being nominated for a Eureka Fellowship and winning second place in the LG Art Association members show in 2009. This artist has exhibited widely locally, as well as in New York, San Francisco and Sacramento. His collectors and his sojourns are decidedly international.

When landing in Japan, Taiwan or Korea, Bermingham furthered his studies in the fine arts and the martial arts. He is married

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to Christy Bohnet, retired engineer from Juniper Networks, now involved in the restoration of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Capitola. She also makes her own olive oil, which she is just starting to sell.

WHO'S ELDERLY? Los Gatan Ann Scales, 80, serves on the board of Senior Housing Solutions and is a member of the Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County. She was one of four who talked on the intergenerational panel at the recent film festival about aging sponsored by the collaborative.

The panel was designed to help dispel myths about aging and the elderly. Key themes that emerged as advice to elders were keeping an upbeat attitude and staying involved. Seven films were also part of the day-long program at Good Sam.

Scales, a native of the U.K., is active in the Convalescent Hospital Ministry and visits residents in nursing homes. She is president of the Willow Glen

AARP Chapter and on the advisory council of the Willow Glen Senior Center. Her own brood includes seven children, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren. Imagine Mother's Day for this woman.

SURPRISE! We don't know how they did it, but they kept this party a secret from the honoree. The celebration was in honor of Rebecca Yates' 65th birthday and Joanne Piva, chum, and Chuck Yates, husband, were the planners. You knew Rebecca hadn't a clue when you saw her astounded face as she stepped into C.B. Hannegan's.

Family and friends greeted her with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday," choreographed by the Rodgers, who had recently heard composer Ben Zander's admonition at the De Anza Forum that the words "you" and the name should be emphasized when singing out the traditional song. Rebecca is a retired longtime rec department administrator.

HOW THE WORM TURNS: Not everyone would find a worm workshop a perfectly fabulous Sunday, but Patti Hughes

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would and did. She and Ted Simonson attended Cynthia Sandberg's Love Apple Farm workshop on worms, and now they know how to grow and rapidly proliferate worms, as well as how to best maintain those essential gardening enhancements.

Patti even enlisted a neighbor's help (read garbage) to add to her own compost heap. Love Apple supplies fresh produce for the Michelin-starred Manresa Restaurant. So we can be confident Sandberg knows her worms.

SAVE THE DATE: Mark Nov. 5 as the date for the seventh Los Gatos Community Foundation CATillion fundraiser to be held at La Rinconada Country Club. Jan Morris-Phillips and Darrell Monda are co-chairs for this gala, whose theme is "Puttin' On The Ritz Los Gatos Style."

The event has raised more than \$200,000 in the past six years, which money is funneled back into the community through grants, scholarships and community projects. To become a sponsor for this event, call Sharon Childs at 408.399.3131 or visit www.losgatoscommunityfoundation.org.

NAME CHANGES: The newest ob/gyn in Los Gatos mentioned in this column recently is Dr. Jennifer Conwell. Her husband is Jeff Milde, but she uses Conwell professionally. Further, the site of her practice is the Los Olivos Medical Group.

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