

ARTIST  PROFILEPALI-X-MANO'S  
WHIMSICAL DELIGHTS

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

**W**ITH A PASSION FOR ART and an interest in bringing joy to his audiences, the lively and jovial Pali-X-Mano will display his work at *CASA Magazine* through the month of October.

Mano grew up in a green Hungarian neighborhood with lots of neighborhood children to keep him company. "It was a place that had a lot of possibility to be creative," shared Mano. As a child Mano recalls playing with toys that he carved out of wood for himself. As he gained experience he not only made



Pali-X-Mano

them for himself, but he made them for the neighborhood children. "The toys were fun, creative, and imaginative, and had interchangeable parts," he recalled.

In 1982, After graduating from the Hungarian Academy of Art and Design in Budapest, Mano had the opportunity to visit the United States and travel from state to state. "I enjoyed seeing how artists lived so freely in New York and California," he shared. "I thought that I could become like them and fulfill my dream to become a fine artist." So, seven years later, in October of 1989, Mano moved to Brooklyn, New York to start his career as an artist. Soon, without exhibiting his art, Mano managed to sell some of his paintings to private buyers who had the opportunity to sample his work. While in New York, Mano visited friends in Santa Barbara a few times and decided to venture west. "Santa Barbara has a culture of artists," noted Mano. "And I like to be around artistic people." Once in Santa Barbara Mano joined Summer Solstice as an Artist in Residence and has been participating in the parade ever since. He is best known for his large and colorful inflatable sculptures in the parade.

Mano describes himself as a "whimsical artist." He has become well known in the community for walking around in his bold hand-painted costumes carrying playful slogans such as: "Art in Progress;" "Art is Free;" and "Artist Cooking," as well as driving his hand-painted cars.

Mano's art includes paintings,



*Two Personages Under the Stars*  
by Pali-X-Mano, 26" x 33," reverse painting  
on acrylic

assemblages, inflatables, printmaking, and performance art, however, he enjoys painting the most. "I paint in reverse on acrylic sheets. I apply layer after layer of paint, and when finished, I seal the painting with acrylic sealer so that the color doesn't change and the colors become compound in the resin," explained Mano.

His inspiration comes from pre-historic cave paintings and two of his favorite 20th century artists: the Spanish painter Joan Miró and Swiss artist Paul Klee. "I am inspired by pre-historic cave paintings that are all over the world and date back 15 to 25 thousand years," shared Mano. "People believed the paintings were magical, powerful symbols made by the shamen who wanted to connect with the spiritual world."

For Mano the most rewarding part of his work is that people fall in love with it. "I enjoy seeing the joy in people's faces. I feel joy when they walk by my artwork and smile," shared Mano. "I believe smiles extend life and with my talent I can give people more joy in life."

Mano has sold his work to several collectors in different countries and over the span of ten years has sold 1,200 paintings. "With my paintings in homes in different parts of the world, I feel like I am there in their country participating in their lives," concluded Mano.

CASA Magazine is located at 23 E. Canon Perdido. For more information call 965-6448.