

Undercurrents of Exploration:

Saritha Margon at Bella Rosa Galleries

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

AFTER A LIFETIME of creating fine art, Saritha Margon remains on the cutting edge, a self-directed explorer delving into new media, ideas, and techniques. Creating elusive images in oils and acrylics in a series of symmetries she calls *Ghostly*, which are the heart of this month's 1st Thursday exhibit at Bella Rosa Galleries, she also pushes the boundaries in our digital age. Her digital work completed on one of the newest tools, the iPad, will also share the space at the exhibit.

"When I got the iPad I thought, you can do more with this than anything that has been done before," this versatile artist shared.



Saritha Margon

Margon, who hails from Staten Island, New York, has been versed in the bi-coastal world since moving to Los Angeles at nine.

Ten years later found her back in the East, finding a life partner, and then returning west, to Ojai and then to Santa Barbara when her husband landed a faculty position at UCSB. Here she maintained her home, noting "Santa Barbara is a unique

place that has everything you want." She also noted she has a "great studio" to work in.

"My community is the world of art, more than the local community," Margon explained of her life in Santa Barbara and New York. "I know what is going on in the world of art, and science really... I try to use whatever is available at the time."

During all of her adventures, Margon studied and created, occasionally sharing her growing abilities with private school students along the way. Over the years she studied with some notable figures including William Brice, Howard Warshaw, and Rico Lebrun, but she names the artist with the biggest influence on her as Virginia Woolf. "She was hard headed about form in her writing but talked simply about everyday life," Margon writes on her website.

Margon's art practice has born the fruit of four one person shows in New York City and an



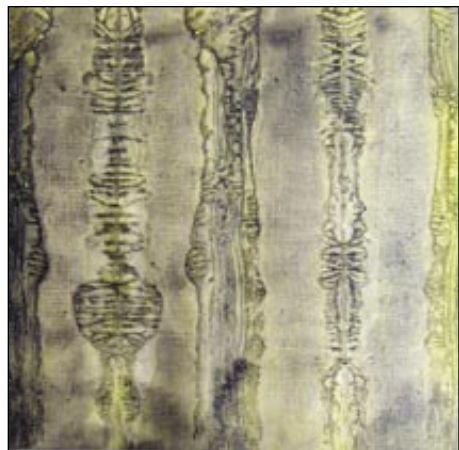
Red Ink by **Saritha Margon**

equal number in Santa Barbara over the years, to the extent that her work was recognized with a lifetime prize of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation award just three years ago.

Since the early 90s, Margon's been focused on the digital generation of patterns, and recently she moved on to creating symmetries on canvas in her current *Ghostly* series. "I think of my symmetries as having an organic quality," she mused. "They're fading memories. That is what I had in mind."

That digital world continues to beckon. In addition to her exhibit at Bella Rosa, she is preparing for an October show in New York, this time of her digital work created on the iPad.

"Where ever I am, my art is," Margon explained. "Material has always been important to me. I'm finding the iPad work very satisfying. The iPad is finger painting."



Yellow Ghostly by **Saritha Margon**



Meet the artist at a 1st Thursday opening reception on May 5th from 5 to 8pm at Bella Rosa Galleries located at 1103-A State Street. For more info visit www.bellarosassb.com or: http://web.me.com/sarithamargon/Saritha_Margon/Artist.html