

ARTIST  PROFILE

Traveling Home:

Jeannette Weisskopf at Intermezzo

By **Devon Pettengill** / CASA

HARMONY, PEACE, TRUTH, AND LOVE are among the aspects of well-being that Jeannette Weisskopf attempts to encapsulate in her artwork, which will be shown at Intermezzo restaurant during 1st Thursday, June 5th from 5pm 'til late.

Weisskopf's paintings are a combination of abstract art, Asian sumi-e brush painting, and three-dimensional elements. "I have always had a creative bent on things," Weisskopf shared, "but after 9/11 is when I let it go. That was really the catalyst."

Extensive travel has brought significant Asian influence to Weisskopf's art, and she often incorporates embossments of medallions found in her travels. Silk fabric from China, Thailand, and Vietnam can also be found in her mixed media works.

Weisskopf decided to focus her life on art after losing a ten-year hotel job the day after 9/11. She had been creating cards as gifts for several years, and started to expand her work to larger mediums. Every piece that she put up for sale sold.

"It was never created with a sense of a business plan," Weisskopf says of her art. "It came from a very inner place of creating beauty for others...When I started to paint I was trying to portray a sense of peace and serenity, but be focused enough to get that out in the form of beauty," she shared.

Weisskopf is a U.S. Citizen, but she was born in Chile and raised in Brazil. She came to the United States at age 18, and attended the University of South Florida, earning a degree in anthropology and mysticism.

Weisskopf believes that growing up in Brazil shaped her perception of the world. "I got very used to looking at nature and being very grounded in the arts," she shared. "I take a very earthly perspective and I'm

grateful for that foundation."

Though she has taken several art classes, she is mostly a self-taught artist. Some of her initial inspiration to pursue her art came from reading a book by Mark Rothko, an abstract artist who broke from tradition in the 1940s and 1950s by using only three colors and creating very simple works.

Weisskopf is not the only artist in her family: her mother is a sculptor and her sister is a ceramicist.

Weisskopf recently moved to Santa Barbara from Boulder, CO, and she explains that the decision to move was almost accidental. After spending several

days visiting the San Luis Obispo area, she saw Santa Barbara was the next town on the map and decided to check it out.

"Once I got to the beach I had this total catharsis and knew that my life was going to change," she shared. "I had spent 16 years in Boulder, and I knew my life there was over."

Weisskopf finds Santa Barbara to be the perfect environment for inspiration because there is so much beauty and nature. Until now, her

artwork has been in storage. The opening at Intermezzo will be the first time she has shown her work, and it is also the first time the restaurant has opened its doors to the public on 1st Thursday.

Weisskopf explains her art "is about a state of consciousness and heart...Beauty is an energy. It's something you connect to because it touches you."

In addition to art, Weisskopf also spends her time volunteering with four local organizations, including the Santa Barbara Art Museum.

Intermezzo is located at 813 Anacapa Street, and is open from 3pm 'til late, daily. Contact the café at 966-9463.



Jeannette Weisskopf



Wisdom Crane by Jeannette Weisskopf



Turquoise Strip by Jeannette Weisskopf