

This week, I met a well-known Northern California artist, found out about a new local painter, and located a possible show space for photographers/artists to rent.

The Californian is Robert Hudson, one of his state's most well-known contemporary artists. He studied at the San Francisco Art Institute, where all the big artists of the Bay Area movement hung out. Ermer Bischoff, Joan Brown and Manuel Neri taught there. Hudson – a sculptor, painter and printmaker – is buddies and collaborator with Richard Shaw and William Wiley.

The occasion of Hudson's visit to Jackson was the installation of a tapestry in the home of a local collector, who threw a little 'do for the occasion. The tapestry of thick woven and knotted silk was actually executed in China. Hudson did the original drawing for it. Three tapestries were planned, but the China connection disappeared and only one was completed.

I asked Hudson what medium he was working in now and he said porcelain. For the few of you not familiar with porcelain, it has the traits I imagine wet plastic having. Didn't he find it hard to work with? "Yes, it's difficult – and it's easy. I like doing ceramic sculptures – it's like three-dimensional drawings."

Hudson had some examples of his ceramic pieces with him. His work is humorous – he uses puns and irony not only in his sculpture but also in his titles. His ceramic sculptures are a mix of recognizable shapes sent into unexpected places. I think his collaborations in sculpture, printmaking and drawing are the most interesting. Collaborators Wiley and Shaw work on several pieces at the same time, apparently. One of the artists described working together as being like musicians in a band: Sometimes they play jazz or chamber music, sometimes they all just howl.

Mavis Jukes, Hudson's wife, seemed like the real troublemaker in the family: a teacher, lawyer and Newberry Award-winning children's author. The science section of the New York Times reviewed her book, "The Guy Book," for boys going through puberty. She said it



"Sara" by Robert Hudson

is a puberty book disguised as a car manual. •

Travis Walker is a serial painter. This local artist is showing his acrylic paintings at Down Home Furnishings. I liked the work: bold paintings; bold colors; familiar subjects done in a different way. There are several studies of the Wort, the Four Lazy F and Snow King. All are done in an intriguing style with bright colors and lighting. The light brings to mind the moment when the atomic bomb explodes: Everything looks frozen and still for a split second. I especially liked "Paragliders," a large piece. A dreamy view of Jackson from Snow King, we the viewers are in the sky with the 'gliders. Another painting, "View of Jackson, No. 12," has the light of late afternoon. The street turns into an avenue going up the mountain. It's mysterious, with a lone figure and a house that has a secret. What is going on here? I decided to find out.

Planet Jackson Hole: Who the heck are you?

Travis Walker: What? I am the new program development director at the Art Association. I moved here from Kansas City, but I grew up Back East and got my degree in painting and printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University.

PJH: Printmaking. That explains why your paintings have a print-like feel to them – flat bright colors like silkscreen prints.

TW: I did some silkscreen prints, but mostly I did stone lithography and etching with very little color.

PJH: What about your colors – they're wild, but it works. I mean that as a compliment.

TW: I don't know why they are so wild. I used to paint in very muted tones until I moved here. Last summer I started using yellow, green, orange and brown. I like to use what I've heard described as lime green. It's a color like early morning, just after a rain and before the sun has burned the grass. I paint a picture, and I want to add subtler colors, but I don't.

PJH: Who are your favorite three artists?

TW: Hiroshige, the Japanese artist who did series of wood block prints. He made series of prints that documented Japanese culture. He took what were ordinary scenes and made them into famous views. My parents had a Hiroshige print. I



was born in Japan, spent my early years in the Orient and the Philippines. That got me interested in Hiroshige. I'd like to make a series of prints. I would like to print 25 views of Jackson.

The artist Edward Hopper is someone I like. He documented American life in his paintings. Richard Diebenkorn – I like him also; he is pretty popular now.

PJH: Tell me the story on your painting "The Para Gliders." That is a pretty spectacular painting.

TW: I wanted to do a view from the top of Snow King. I wanted to eliminate

Jackson and have a nice open space. From my house, I could see the paragliders flying above the mountain. They fit into the view. A painting by Andrew Wyeth originally inspired me. "Soaring" is a view looking down on flying crows; there is a real sense of space.

PJH: Why all the paintings of the Wort?

TW: The Wort ties into the Hiroshige series theme. The Wort is an historical building – I am fixated with historical buildings. It's also a European building, not a Western building. It is nice to see something so European in Jackson.

Travis Walker's paintings are on view at Down Home Furnishing, 65 Pearl Ave.

September Vhay's one-woman show at Wyoming Gallery on Friday was well attended. And for very good reasons. Her beautiful watercolors deserve all the attention they receive. Among the more typical, totemic images of wildlife were a few charming little landscapes and a bunch of horse paintings. Her equine subjects sometimes took on the rhythm of a gently rolling countryside, with shadow and light playing across backs and flanks. And of course her wildlife paintings remain excellent: full of character and subtle but telling gestures. I'd have bought them all if I could have.

Everyone knows there is no place for local photographers to have shows. Now you photographers, about the space you need to rent. Yes, you want a spot to show your photos. George Leys of Wyoming Frameworks has wall space to rent. George said he has 300 square feet for 300 bucks! Bronwyn Minton, who rented the space, organized some of the best shows in town. There is a shared kitchenette, so you can prepare snacks for your soirees. So get together, rent the walls, send out some invites and hang up those photos. George also has a fully equipped darkroom he is also renting out. Call him at 733-5077.