

**OUT OF MY MIND**  
by *A. Cort Sinnes*



# Art Lives Here

**T**EN OR SO YEARS AGO, THE ARTIST WAYNE THIEBAUD CAME to town with his family. The occasion for his visit was the somewhat controversial purchase of one of his paintings ("Apartment Hill," painted in 1980) by the Friends of Art and the Nelson Gallery Foundation. At the reception in honor of the event, I was surprised to see Thiebaud, his wife, and their adult children just, well, kind of standing there in the middle of Kirkwood Hall with no one to talk to. I decided to do the Midwestern thing and just walked over, introduced myself, and we proceeded to have a very nice conversation. Later that evening, I met up with them again at the bar at the then Alameda Plaza Hotel, and we proceeded to have an even better conversation.

Reflecting on the meeting the next day, I thought that my actually talking with an internationally famous artist would never have happened if the same reception had taken place in a museum in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago—and certainly not in New York. Hell no—here would have been phalanxes of handlers, hangers-on, and hot-shots surrounding him, keeping everyone else out.

I was reminded of the admirable accessibility of art and artists in this town just the other day: I had missed the jam-packed opening reception for the **Herb Ritts** exhibition at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, but definitely wanted to catch it before it left town. While running errands one weekday afternoon, I passed the museum and thought "no time like the present." There was a parking spot right by the front door, the admission was free, and in a minute I was standing in front of Ritts' amazing photography—a world-class exhibition, within walking distance of my house, free admission, no crowd—and a no-hassle parking spot. There are some who might just call it Midwest living, but I'd call it great.

Speaking of artists, there's a homegrown talent everyone should be keeping their eye on—namely one **Lisa Grossman**. Some 10 years ago, Lisa discovered the Flint Hills and has been painting its magical

beauty ever since. **John O'Brien**, Prince of the Crossroads Arts District and owner of Dolphin Gallery (1901 Baltimore), discovered her work way back when and is her exclusive agent. As testimony to Grossman's ability, her show at the Dolphin last year sold out to the bare walls—an almost unheard of phenomenon. Rumor has it she's been put on the "buy list" of some powerful Hollywood-type collectors. Mark your calendars: Grossman's next show at the Dolphin is scheduled for October 2000. If you can't wait until then, ask to see what's in the Dolphin's back room—you'll be amazed.



Speaking of royalty in the Crossroads Arts District, there's a new czar in town—the **Postr Czar**, otherwise known as **Grant Lundberg**. His shop, called the Postr Czar (that's right, there's no "e" in "postr") specializes in original vintage Eastern European advertising art posters—mostly Polish, Czech and Russian—many of them one-of-a-kind. "This isn't the kind of art one buys to match a sofa," says Lundberg, "if it did, I like to see the sofa". Highly collectible and graphically strong, these posters are artwork with a message—and the message is "go take a look, comrade," because when they're gone, they'll be gone for good. The Postr Czar is open from noon to 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday (or call for an appointment: 816/842-6209). There's also a website at [www.postrczar.com](http://www.postrczar.com).

If you're out northern California way, check out a Kansas City Art Institute alum who's gaining quite a reputation in the pottery world. **Kathy Kearns**, who attended KCAI in the 1980s, is putting her own spin on the traditional California art pottery from the turn-of-the-century (that other one), and has developed some of the most beautiful glazes you'll see anywhere. Her work is sold under the name "Crockett Pottery," namely because her studio is located in Crockett—a small town across the bay from San Francisco. Give her a call (510/787-1923). She took her affable Midwestern ways with her and will be happy to have you drop by for a studio visit. Or visit her website at [www.crockettpottery.com](http://www.crockettpottery.com).