

Arts

**TWO UP-AND-COMING ARTISTS' WORK
ON DISPLAY AT ARTS VISALIA**

Kevin Bowman • Arts • October 1, 2010

The month of October marks the start of a new exhibition at Arts Visalia, this time featuring two of Visalia's up-and-coming artists: Bryan Pickens and Antonio "Evaristo" Cuellar.

Pickens, who splits his time as a painter and as a graphic designer, will display paintings. Cuellar, known for his work in ceramics and sculpture, will share two new series of artworks.

If you have visited The Cellar Door in the past few years, you would have noticed the large-scale paintings on display throughout, the work of Pickens.

In a new series of paintings on wooden panels, he has extended his exploration of the female form, this time in a more graphic and linear style where elements of rich color and delicate pattern are interwoven, revealing intriguing, beautiful portraits.

These new works represent a delicate balancing act of diverse artistic influences ranging from surrealist automatic drawing, the prints of the 19th century Japanese artist Toshusai Sharaku or the Art Nouveau lithographs of Alphonse Mucha.

Truly, Pickens has arrived at a striking series of paintings in this new series. Cuellar's new works for this exhibition feature two separate bodies of work, one of more traditional vessel forms, the other a series of sculptures derived from interpretations of everyday objects infused with conceptual interpretation and visual suggestions.

While quite different in their form and content, both bodies of work are quite remarkable and seem to mark new directions in Cuellar's work.

The exhibition will be on display at Arts Visalia through Oct. 30, with an opening reception for the public from 6-8 p.m. Friday.



TOP: "Solace" and "Fixate" by Bryan Pickens
BOTTOM: Ceramics by Antonio "Evaristo" Cuellar