

Daily Camera Article May 3rd 1998  
Living & Arts

from palate palette



Boulder's Donovan Krebs draws creativity from both culinary and artistic.....

It was a stroke of luck for Boulder artist Donovan Krebs that he was all dirty when his father first laid eyes on him. "He spotted me in my great-aunt's antique store in Buffalo when I was 4, and he took me upstairs to her apartment and gave me a bath. My mother married him, but he adopted me, and he raised me," says the 29-year-old abstract expressionist.

As the son of an antique dealer-- Melvin Krebs--Donovan Krebs was introduced to abstract art by his father at a young and tender age. The initial glimpse made for a lifelong memory. "He took me to the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo, and it changed my life," Krebs says. "I was in awe when I saw the one piece they had by Willem de Kooning, 'Gothen News,' and 'Convergence's' by Jackson Pollock. I was overwhelmed by their beauty. Through a friend, also an artist, I was exposed to prominent New York painters such as Norman Bluhm, whom I've met. "While Krebs studied art in high school, working more with collage than with paints, he was also exposed to another art form, culinary prowess. "My dad is a behind-the-scenes chef and I was always taken along to wine dinners," he says. "I can even remember eating tofu at age 6. My dad worked quite a bit so I had to fend for myself, and I learned to cook. Eventually, I became the chef at an Italian

restaurant in Buffalo. "After graduation, young Krebs headed not west but east, to Europe, where he traveled for four months, devouring the collections in several museums.

"Then in 1992, I came to Boulder for a while and was a Sous chef at the Mediterranean," he says. "The move to Colorado had to do with a relationship, but I went back to Buffalo and began to paint seriously. I had a show and sold 14 large canvases."

Krebs returned to Boulder in 1996, this time to pursue his goal of exhibiting in the West, promoting the idea that abstract expressionism is not exclusively a movement centered in eastern, urban centers.

"Boulder is a great place, although there are a lot of young artists here who don't know how to go out into the art world," says Krebs, who was featured in the March Raree Show at Crossroads Mall, which included 12 emerging local artists. "But Cydney Payton, executive director of the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art is helping to draw awareness to modern art." Due to a lack of avant-garde spaces in town in which to show their work, Krebs and three other artists have formed the Surfacing Artists Group. They are searching out venues where their works can be promoted.

Meanwhile, Krebs feels blessed in his life in Boulder. "I rent a house with a studio, a place where I can cook and paint," he says. "The connection for me--besides working at John's to pay the bills--is that through my own cooking I really enjoy making sure people are enjoying themselves to the nth degree. I love hosting parties and being a social butterfly through food." Krebs says his abstract landscapes are heavily influenced by Boulder's natural ambiance. "I can take a walk around the block and then really go at it," he says. "As I get older I get freer. I don't worry about stuff as much as I did, even the money. That's what living out here is about, letting things go."