

A New Voice in the Arts

Voice 1156 Takes an Innovative Spin on the Art Gallery

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Opening receptions at Voice 1156 Gallery include a DJ spinning records, and the guy collecting donations at the door looks more like a bouncer than a docent—it's no Balboa Park art gallery.

"This place is a reflection of who we are and the people we are," said Monica Hoover, creative director at Voice 1156.

She insists that the gallery is not trying to give off a certain vibe.

"We're embodying and reflecting our experience of how we know life, said Hoover. "We just are what we are."

The gallery's first show was in September of 2004. Opening receptions for the gallery are traditionally held on the first Friday of every month, which is something that Hoover adopted from growing up on the East Coast.

"I am from the East

Coast, Philadelphia [...] and everyone knows it's [the art gallery] we go to to after work," said Hoover. She said that she is trying to start something downtown for the San Diego art community.

Last month's reception titled "No Stress" featured work by several artists including Aaron Winters, whose comic-style drawings and paintings were collaged with a turntable, skateboard and old video game systems.

Another artist, Nathan

Cordero, used wood that was painted and then chipped away to reveal images. Several of his pieces portrayed different configurations of cigarettes and their packaging.

Hoover said, "We mix it up with people who are established and people who are up-and-comings."

The next reception titled "Visual Disobedience" features Shepard Fairey. Fairey is best known for designing the "Obey" stickers, posters and stencils that can be spotted in sev-

eral major American cities.

According to the Obey Web site, the placing of stickers is an "experiment in phenomenology[...] Because people are not used to seeing advertisements or propaganda for which the motive is not obvious, frequent and novel [...]"

The Fairey opening reception will be Friday, Sept 9, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. The exhibit runs through Oct 21. Voice 1156 is located downtown at 1156 7th Street.