

Eclectic artist focuses on the 'slightly disquieting'

■ Green cats and human aquariums are represented in New Yorker's paintings and installations.

BY JOSH KRAUTER
Senior staff writer

You've done it before. You drive down the same street every day to get to work. You see the same buildings, the same cars parked in front of these buildings, the same routine of green lights changing to red and back to green again.

Then, you notice something different.

Maybe it's a small, family restaurant tucked away in a corner next to an alley, or a vacant lot you've never noticed before, but it leaves you with the same question.

Where did that come from, and has it always been there?

Sandy Skoglund captures this feeling in her installations and photographs.

"She's interested in a view of reality that is familiar, yet there is

something slightly disquieting or askew," said Janet Farber, curator of the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, which is displaying a retrospective of Skoglund's work from 1973 to this year.

"She wants to awaken people to the environment around them."

Skoglund creates her own installations and uses them in her photography, which Farber says blurs the lines between fact and fiction.

Two of Skoglund's best known photos, "Revenge of the Goldfish" and "Radioactive Cats," are included in the exhibition.

In "Goldfish," an image of a boy's bedroom is converted into the inside of an aquarium. "Cats" depicts a couple of "acid-green" cat figures strolling around a generic living room, with the man and woman inhabiting the room seemingly unaware of their presence.

Farber says "Radioactive Cats" shows how "people are unaware of the awe-inspiring nature that surrounds them."

Skoglund, a New York artist, creates all of her installations specifically to be photographed, said Farber.

She has even taken some of her

Gallery Preview The Facts

What: "Sandy Skoglund: Reality Under Siege"

Where: Joslyn Art Museum
2200 Dodge St., Omaha

When: Sept. 4 - Oct. 31

The Skinny: Artist questions lines between what's real and what's not.

sculptures outdoors and photographed the odd juxtapositions that result.

She also paints and draws, and the exhibition will include some of this work. But the photographs and sculptures make up the bulk of the collection.

Farber said Skoglund is in a class of her own, though her work complements other postmodern artists.

"She doesn't speak so much to other artistic influences in her work, but there's an interesting parallel between her work and other post-modern photographers," said Farber. "There is a strong current of realism in her work as well."

"Sandy Skoglund: Reality Under Siege" begins Sept. 4 and runs through Oct. 31.

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New eatery has flavor

J.J. HARDER
Staff writer

Lincoln has a new restaurant that marches to the beat of a different drummer. Well, a drum at least.

Bongo, Nebraska's only Colombian restaurant, brings "a little" South American saltiness to the Haymarket.

Located under the O Street viaduct, near Fringe & Tassel, Bongo is situated in a long brick-walled room with a high-ceilinged ceiling. Booths and tables fill the space equally, while the white chairs seem more fit for a suburban breakfast nook than a South American eatery.

Pictures of the Andes mountains and historic statues line the walls, and Latin percussive music adds a groove to the dining experience. A full bar nestles in the back corner of the restaurant, surrounded by festive colors. TVs are mounted so every customer can have a good angle on the current futbol game.

The service was extremely slow, but the wait may be an intended part of the restaurant's uniqueness, much like the menu. While potatoes and rice are the staple side dishes, the food is a mixture of Mexican and Spanish cuisine.

For an appetizer, arepas, fried corn-bread slices, are dipped in a thick salsa.

Restaurant Review The Facts

What: Bongo

Where: 730 O. St.

Cost: \$7-15/meal

The Scoop: Check out the only Colombian restaurant in Nebraska.

For entrees, my favorite was the Colombia version of chicken cordon bleu - pechuga rellena. The chicken breast is stuffed with ham and cheese, but instead of being breaded, it's wrapped in bacon.

The papa chorriada is a baked potato topped with a spicy sauce and cheese. It perfectly complements the torta de pollo - a hearty chicken casserole. But the arepa rellena, an Egg McMuffin look-alike, wasn't as tasty as the other entrees.

Bongo also offers a few authentic Colombian drinks, but avoid the daiquiris - they were terrible.

Bongo is a must-visit because it is a complete rarity. Just don't expect to order a soft taco - this is not a Mexican restaurant, and it is not fast food. Rather, try something new ... I'm sure Bongo will be drumming up a lot of business.

Is your antacid your Best Friend?

If you are experiencing Heartburn (especially after meals and while sleeping)...

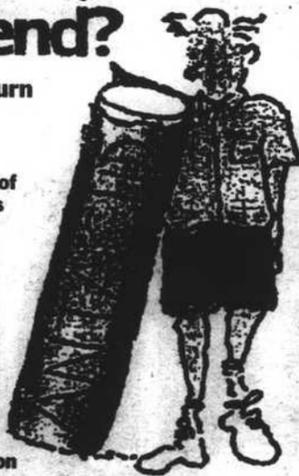
This symptom may be due to irritation of your esophagus (the tube that connects your mouth to your stomach) by acid.

A nationwide research study is currently underway to investigate medications which may decrease your heartburn symptoms by decreasing the acid in your esophagus. The study will involve at least 2300 patients at more than 120 medical institutions throughout the United States.

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