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ART SMART

Kid-friendly culture

Andrew Marton

Star-Telegram Art Critic

Work of Art: Jael

The artist: Rosemary Meza (Born: 1965 in Garland)

Where on display: **Gallery 414, 414** Templeton Drive, (817) 336-6595

Why it's neat: In this work, the variety and versatility of the artist, Rosemary Meza, shines through. The work is an excellent example of Meza's signature use of charcoal, pastel, collage, oil stick and crayon on canvas.

What's even more enjoyable about this piece - a segment of a large installation - is that the artist's separate ingredients don't combine into a watered-down soup of color and texture. Instead, Meza combines all these materials to produce a disciplined yet haunting portrait.

This is a complex work rooted in the dramatic life of "Jael," a goat herder described in the Book of Judges. The drama with which Jael lived her life is partially reflected by the artist's rough use of shears in order to achieve the "cut-out" format of the work.

As for her color choices, Meza manages to use the face of this biblical character as a canvas for a blending of earth tones and shades of gray. Offsetting these subdued colors is Meza's exuberant use of greens and yellows for Jael's raccoon tail-shaped hat. The joyousness of these colors is a welcome contrast to the seriousness of this work's subject.

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PHOTO(S): **Gallery 414**