

Guadalupe offers two-artist show

By Dan R. Goddard
Express News Arts Writer

Sexually charged, fragmented figures in painted collages by Dallas artist Rosemary Meza and stylized, art deco-like figures by San Antonian Duane Hilburn are on view through Sept. 4 at the Guadalupe Visual Art Annex.

In Meza's "She Only Has One Thing on Her Mind," an erect penis appears to be growing out of the forehead of a young woman. Graphically and directly, Meza bores into the twisted realm of sexual politics, which appears to be mainly inhabited by "Fools, Fools and More Fools."

Using images clipped from magazines and pasted down in thick layers, Meza also paints over the clippings in a broad, scrawling neo-expressionistic style. Her figures are drawn in black outlines, but their facial expressions are

See **ARTIST/16A**

Artist uses architectural elements

Continued from 14A

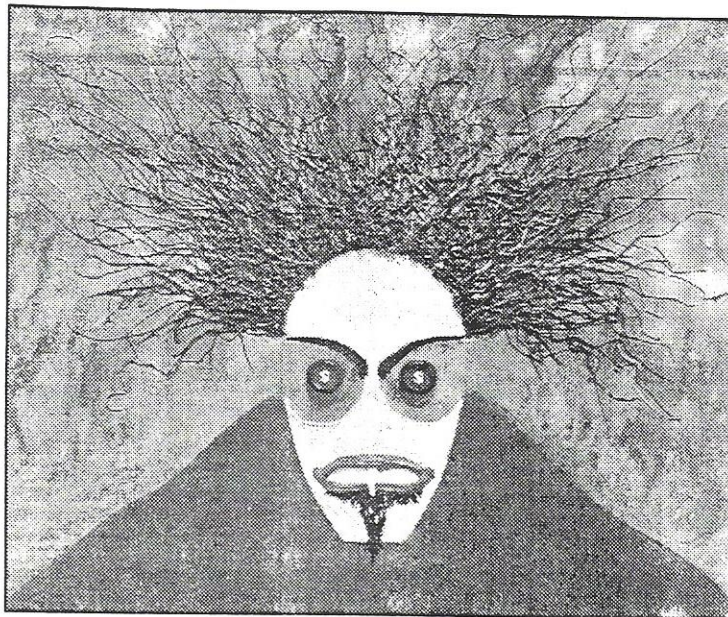
subtle and personal, filled with existential torment and despair. Meza's people appear to get mostly pain, not pleasure, from sex.

"Dancing in the Obituaries" appears to be a contemporary male version of Picasso's "Demoiselles d'Avignon" (1907). It is concerned with AIDS and ghostlike faces appear in the background amid grim, gaunt figures. Meza alludes to domestic violence in "His Love Knocked Me Out" and "He's Loving Me to Death and I'm Gonna Die Tonight."

A poet as well as a painter, Meza's titles pack almost as much wallop as her images. She uses sexual organs as blunt instruments to pound her messages home, but her paintings can be humorous, witty and refreshingly irreverent about the politically correct.

Hilburn is showing a finely crafted series of angular, geometric figures with architectural elements. Though he hasn't had an exhibit since the 1980s, Hilburn has been honing his skills while making a living doing construction work. With plastic squiggles for hair, metal points for noses and wire mesh for background patterns, Hilburn uses found objects to enhance his quirky, archetypal male and female figures.

"An Offering in the Garden" features a woman with jagged breasts, lace on her slip and a strategically placed apple. "Locked in Memory" has the image of a



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

Duane Hilburn's painting 'Greed Monger' is part of an exhibit running until Sept. 4 at the Guadalupe Visual Arts Annex.

slumped-shouldered, downcast woman locked behind a grid of wire mesh. A male figure crouches within the confines of a cardboard box in "Man in a Box."

But Hilburn may be most effective with his head-and-shoulder portraits. The "Deceiver" resembles the artist Salvador Dali, who is now dismissed as a purveyor of schlock, though "Dali: The Early Years" at New York's Metropolitan Museum is helping to reaffirm the originality of his early work. Hilburn's "Sidewalk Oracle" has a long beard and a barbed tongue. The "Greed Monger" has dollar signs for eyes and electroshock hair. Hilburn's work is rather decorative, but it has a pointed sense of humor.

In the Residents' Gallery, self-taught artist Alex Rubio peers into the world of gangs in his hyperrealist paintings combining garish colors and cartoonish detail. The Virgin of Guadalupe has to cry when confronted with Rubio's scenes of police brutality and drug abuse.

Exhibits by Rosemary Meza, Duane Hilburn and Alex Rubio run until Sept. 4 at the Guadalupe Visual Arts Annex, 325 S. Salado St., 271-0379.

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This page is

San Antonio Express-News

Comic books making move to CD-ROM — Page 15A

ON THE SCENE.....Page 15
WOMEN'S SEMINAR.....Page 15

Monday, August 8, 1994

14-A