

## Mount Clemens' Anton Art Center offers intriguing exhibits

Michael H. Hodges / Detroit News Arts Writer

If you need an excuse to justify a drive to the Macomb County seat, here's one: The Anton Art Center in downtown Mount Clemens consistently stages some of the most intriguing exhibitions in the metro area.

"Invented Memories," up through Aug. 15, is a good example.

This 15-person, largely narrative show deals in the seductive, and occasionally treacherous, realm of nostalgic memory, both real and imagined.

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A wall installation -- "The The" -- by Bridget Byers, a young artist at the University of Kentucky, constructs a visual fantasy using ceramic toys, figurines and various childhood tchotchkes of the sorts made from molds. High points include little vaulting wolves, rustic "Western" fences, and -- perhaps most deliciously -- historic American presidents whose heads and torsos are obscured by much-larger Native-American wolf headdresses that they're (apparently involuntarily) wearing.

"It's a fantastic installation," says Alison Wong, Anton exhibitions and education coordinator. "It's really sophisticated work, and I love bringing young, emerging artists to the Center."

Royal Oak artist Scott Michalski and Philadelphia photographer Eric McDade collaborated on a two-part project involving self-portraits touching on displacement and loss, jointly titled "One of Us, One of Us." Each work is framed through a little boy's cowboys-vs.-Indians worldview.

Michalski's colored-pencil self-portrait shows a defeated, bloodied Native American presumably being led away by U.S. troops. By contrast, McDade's photograph sets the artist on horseback, face marked up with war paints, hands bound and roped to his unseen captors. The cowboy still grasps his six-shooter in his tied hands, an ironic detail that could, one supposes, lend itself to any number of interpretive theories.

The show's other artists include Kristin Beaver, Claudia Berlinski, Renee Bernier, Christiana Caro, Wendy Deschene, Seth Farnack, Jessica Harvey, Maria Karimipour, **Monika Malewska**, Katie Martineau-Caron, Sarah Trahan and Paula Wild.

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