

THE NEWS

BOCA RATON ❖ DELRAY BEACH ❖ BOYNTON BEACH ❖ DEERFIELD BEACH

MONDAY

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'Totem' opening draws impressive crowd to Museum

VIPs, members and honored guests attended the opening night reception of "Totem", the Boca Museum of Art's current exhibition of paintings, sculpture and photography. The exhibition continues at 801 West Palmetto Park Road through July 14. The Museum is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and from noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The concept of the totem is an ancient one, and the works in this exhibition possess a primitive quality, either in subject or in the direct and emotionally-charged handling of materials. They are direct and expressionistic, with a feeling of magic, raw energy and potential power. The repetitive imagery of each produces an object of identification and veneration in the broad sense, a totem. Yet each artist treats the concept of the totem in a unique and personal way, and the message can be as different as the medium.

Shahreyar Ataie's "Flowers", of plaster, raw hemp and tar, is a configuration of heads on posts that suggests distant yet powerful tribal ancestors.

Macyn Bolt creates abstract, intellectual forms that often have the feel of the invisible about them... a sense of the hidden interior, its meaning and relationship.



From left, Roshan Houshmand, Samuel Berenson, Linda Stein and Felice Berenson.

The paintings of Roshan Houshmand seem not only to replicate but to embody ancient and eternal rituals, themselves becoming venerated objects.

Bruno La Verdiere works primarily in clay to create stark and powerful shrines, suggestive of grave site or territorial markers with magic powers.

Elaine Reichek's haunting installations utilize enlarged early 20th-century photographs of the now-extinct tribes of Tierra del Fuego. The artist collages, hand colors and adds knitted images to the photos, juxtaposing the primitive with the modern world.

Ward Shelley couples modern technology with the primitive, totemic image. Digital electronics add sound or visuals to his work.

And finally, Linda Stein's scepters are of wood, bone, beads, cloth, leather, rope and other magical pieces. Viewing her work, one may believe he has stumbled upon a unique archaeological find from some distant tribe — perhaps the authentic scepter of an ancient shaman.

For more information about the "Totem" exhibition, the Boca Museum, Art School, membership or corporate sponsorship, please call (407) 392-2500.