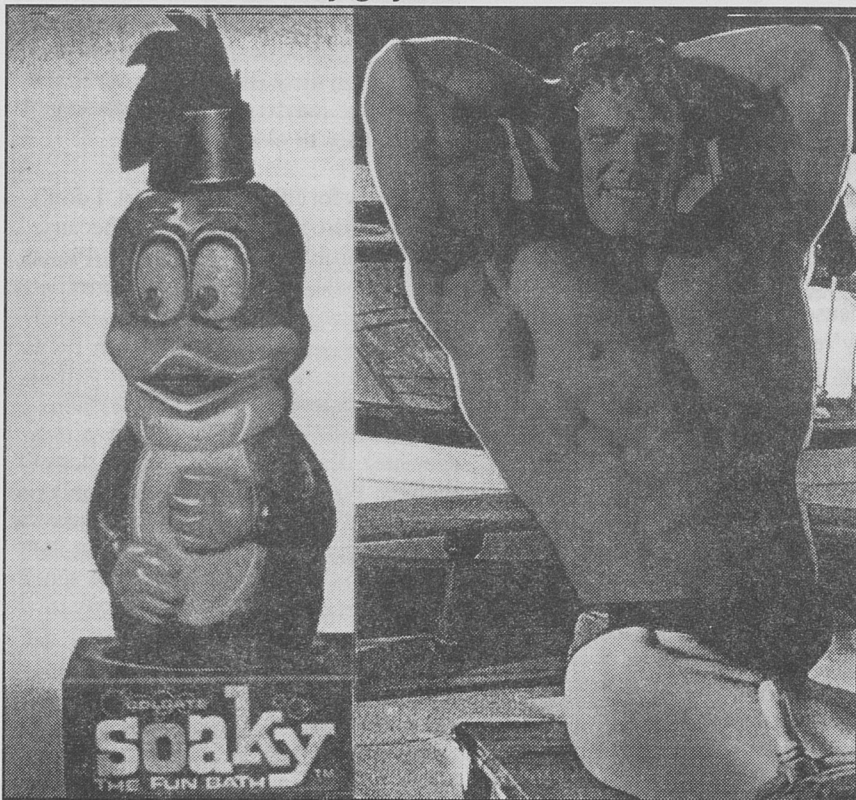


Flaming Senses: UVM exhibits work by gay artists



Steve Dunning *The Fun Bath*

BURLINGTON/MANCHESTER CENTER -- The Francis Colburn Gallery at the University of Vermont will present "Flaming Senses", a collaborative exhibit by artists Kevin Cook and Steven Dunning. The exhibit includes highly colored acrylic paintings and jarring video screen images that express the artists' gay male political and sexual concerns. The videos take a

fresh look at common, everyday occurrences while the paintings put a subversive spin on icons of popular culture.

Dunning uses photographs from books and magazines of the 1940's and 1950's in his paintings. "I look for images that were intended to promote the ideals of mainstream America," Dunning said. "I

use the same strategies of print media, creating associations between pictures and text to alter the viewer's consciousness and awareness, but the irony here is that I subvert their original meanings to address social conditions of the gay subculture."

Cook uses electronic image-processing to produce videos bearing experimental narratives that challenge the conventions of the television industry. "My goal is to make videotapes that are proof that a creative alternative to commercial television does indeed exist. To do this, I combine the usual with the unusual, both in terms of subject matter and imagery. The videotapes can be lighthearted and serious at the same time and high-tech computer-generated images are often combined with low-tech camcorder images. They are as visually appealing as music videos, but they tell a much different story."

As suggested by the title's dual meaning, the artists employ two seemingly divergent modes of expression - one serious in intent and articulation, the other equally serious yet rooted in the camp sensibility of the gay subculture. The artists make no attempt, however, to separate the two forms of expression. Paintings of men with Kaposi's sarcoma coexist with paintings of empty starlets and preening muscle-bound boys.

"Flaming Senses" will be on exhibit in the Francis Colburn Gallery on the second floor of Williams Hall at UVM from August 31 through September 16. ▼

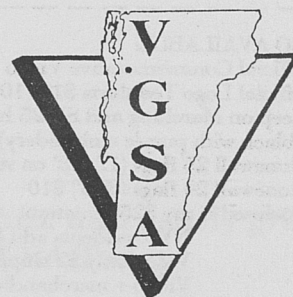
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