



Staff photo by Wayne Leidenfrost

Zany painter David Ostrem with his psychedelic works at the Or Gallery.

Explosions of fun

By ART PERRY
Art Critic

One of Vancouver's visionaries is back at the drawing board, causing visual havoc and mayhem.

David Ostrem, the master of zaniness, has come through with a brilliant new series of works entitled Psychedelic Art.

The works are without question some of the most novel explosions of imaginary fun to be seen in Vancouver for some time.

Check out some of the titles: Crazy Inside; Crazy Outside; Inner Space; Big City in the Middle of Nowhere; Smoking Marijuana in the Park, and (my personal favorite) Taking Acid.

No, don't get the idea that this is some half-witted druggy head show. In masterful paintings such as Picnic of the Future, Ostrem shows that his humor and sense of bizarre fun is contained by a disciplined talent and not some hazy excessiveness.

REVIEW

Some people will no doubt hate Ostrem's work. It has a Flintstone kind of cartoon quality and, with titles such as Mentally Retarded Person Accidentally Takes Three Hits of LSD, Ostrem is not going to appeal to everyone's taste.

From my vantage point, Ostrem has a particular genius that combs through all the crud and pretence of modern art and lets the remnants of our culture fall about his works like diamonds in the rough.

Bugs Bunny with a bottle of French wine . . . rock and roll meets William Blake in the back of a Chevy sometime in the future.

David Ostrem is one of our true cultural chroniclers. His eye is not fuzzy with the mist of modernism's ghost, and he doesn't take his boots off before entering the

House of Art. He builds his own psychedelic church.

David Ostrem, *Psychedelic Art*, Or Gallery, 505 Hamilton Street, 1 to 5 p.m., until the end of November.

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