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Too hot 'Cool Art/Hot Summer' sizzles with fresh talent

BY KEVIN COSTELLO CORRESPONDENT

"Cool Art/Hot Summer," a group show at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art, is a rewarding mix of significant artists with well-established reputations, and recent graduates of the Ringling School of Art and Design.

The young artists in this show, who have found, shaped and colored personal insights with their own visual language, are particularly refreshing. Those in the community with an eye and interest in establishing a collection of meaningful contemporary art should take a look at them.

Ringling graduate Maria Teresa Garcia's three-color woodcut "Artichoke Hearts" is a simple visual pun between artichokes seen whole and spliced open, with a human heart seen the same way.

Garcia has produced a beautiful print, due in part to the technical guidance of master printer Jill Lerner, a faculty member at the Ringling.

"Ganesha, Hindu God of Overcoming Obstacles" by Kristen Sabeau, another Ringling grad, is an imaginative photo collage self-portrait. The collage contains hundreds of quarter-inch-square portraits of the artist arranged by color and delineating a larger image of Ganesha, the Hindu god of wisdom and literature.

Maciek Klosinski, a Polish-born American artist and Ringling graduate, paints live and dead cows in their pastures with a palette derived from his Eastern European heritage. He applies acrylic paints and photo transfers onto clear Mylar and, in so doing, has created a fresh invention in the genre of landscape.

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On display through Sept. 24 at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art, 556 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Call 366-2093 or access www.miramararts.com.

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Juri Morioka, an American-trained Japanese biomorphic abstractionist, is also new to this area. Her brightly painted, horizontal forms move and dissolve into each other like reflections on the surface of disturbed water. Light appears to settle on these translucent forms that float and drift toward viewers.

Another artist new to this area is Jamie Barron, who divides her time between New York and Sarasota. Her large acrylic, oil, ink and tape-on-paper "Protective Raven" suggests the mummification of a memory.

Her thick layers of clear tape, cut-out shapes and paint form enigmatic spaces inhabited by icons with historical associations. The paintings are both seductive in color and implicitly spiritual in intent.

Other notable works in this exhibit are a monotype woodcut, "Deep Water," by Jackie Battenfield; "Marigold Grid," a heavily textured, oil-on-canvas, minimalist abstraction by Cora Roth; seed-pod paintings by Cuban Luisa Basnuevo, and gouache and collage landscapes by

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