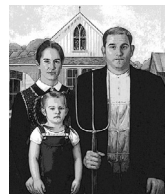


Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

A haunting season



Ever since I was a kid growing up on the north side of Crown Point in the late 70's, Halloween has been one of my most favorite holidays. The costumes, house decorations, old black and white classic horror movie reruns, haunted houses, and most of all, trick or treating with my best friend Paula McCarty are all fond memories I will never forget.

There was always an adrenaline rush running through the neighborhood in the dark, knocking on doors, clinching the pillowcase, and never knowing who or what was going to answer the door. It was quite exhilarating being parent-free, and out very late at night.

Of course thirty years ago, it was a more innocent time for children as there was no internet, computers or game cubes. Sharing spooky stories with neighborhood friends of ghosts of bats, witches, monsters and werewolves was a common pastime activity at Halloween.

What does this have to do with art? Spanish artist Francisco Goya (1746-1828) epitomizes what I would categorize as an artist

who captures the traditional, classically creepy fine art images. While many of his contemporaries chose to depict picturesque portrait, landscape and still life paintings, Goya preferred creating art with the darker subject matter of humans including suffering, pain, war, destruction and death.



Goya's Saturn Devouring His Son, 1819 depicts a mythological scene of the god, Saturn, devouring a child, which has been interpreted to symbolize his country's ongoing civil struggle. Imagine how shocking this painting was 180 years ago. It is still frightening today even with evolution of science fiction movies, and computers.

Extremely affected by one of the Napoleonic

Battles in which his country fought in the Peninsular War (1808-1814), Goya created as series of 80 aquatint prints titled Los Desastres de la Guerra (The Disasters of War) which depicted the horrific scenes from that war including death, famine, and suffering.

Against the Common Good illustrates a hunched back creature with bat wings reading a book which may be interpreted to be the Devil.



This image has been used in countless horror movies, costumes, and has striking similarities to the famous 1922 black-n-white classic silent horror picture Nosferatu.



They Do Not Want To, another etching from the Disaster's of War series, depicts a young woman trying to fight off a soldier, while her mother is about to stab him in the back.



This image of the lone sharp knife being raised has been used repeatedly in popular horror films, including the most infamous stabbing scene in Alfred Hitchcock's horror film Psycho.

Although Hollywood has extremely sophisticated special effects generated by computers, one can't forget some of the most haunting and powerful images were born in one still piece of fine art.

For all who cherish the good, old-fashioned Halloween family festivities, the nearby towns of Crown Point and St. John have lots

of activities on the horizon. We thank Jennie Burgess, assistant director of Crown Point Parks and Recreation, for providing the following information.

Halloween Party

Oct. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Crown Point Civic Center, 101 S. East St.

Ghosts and goblins, princesses and superheroes. Costumed kids up to age 10 are invited to a Halloween Party. Enjoy games, prizes, and a costume contest. Tickets are \$2; call the Parks Department at 661-2271.

Pumpkin Walk

Oct. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Downtown City Center Merchants host the third annual Pumpkin Walk from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Children can show off their costumes as they travel from store to store. Look for the pumpkin in the window to find the participating stores.

We thank Jerri Teibel, St. John Town Council vice-president, for providing us with information on the

town's first Halloween Spooktacular Festival, which runs from Oct. 24 through Oct. 30. Events take place at the Lake Hills Club House, 8640 Lake Hills Drive, St. John. For information call 365-6236 or log onto www.stjohnin.com.

Haunted House- Paid Admission

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Oct. 24, 25, 26, 29, and 30; 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 27 and 28.

Scary Craft, Snacks, Hay Maze

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 27 and 28; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 29 Enjoy fall foods and beverages, dance along with the DJ and take a ride on the Ghostly Express.

Tween Dance, ages 11-17

Admission: \$5 with costume and \$10 without costume. 8 to 11 p.m. Oct. 28.

Costume Parade and Judging

Steps off at 2 p.m. Oct. 29

What are you going to be this Halloween? Email to samowner@sbcglobal.net

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6 to 9 pm
Tickets
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Tropical
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Catering Sampling
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