

## PROFILES

### ILJA TINFO

Margot Palmer-Poroner, editor of New York's *Artspeak* magazine commented upon seeing Ilja Tinfo's work in his studio: "You don't see this caliber of work much in the galleries of New York." Wow!!! Hilda Perthä has said that Tinfo's work "remains distinct and continues to intrigue both artist and viewer."

There is no question that Ilja is one of the premiere artists in our community and on October 15 you'll see twenty-five years worth of explanation at the What's Afoot Gallery in Caspar.

Tinfo arrived on the North Coast 18 years ago. He had studied art at Pratt (same class as Maplethorpe) and had received a degree. He hit San Francisco in the Summer of Love but didn't stay, perhaps impacted by the California experience he came back for good settling in Mendocino in 1975. Ilja spent his first years here painting and waiting tables at the Sea Gull, where he commandeered the basement called it the Attic and began putting on exhibitions with other edge artists.

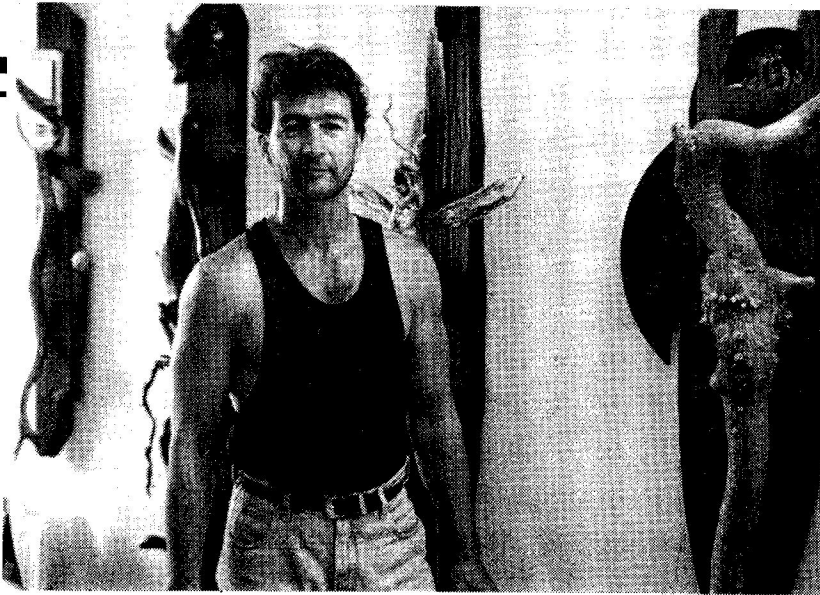


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Although inspired by the surrealists and the great Masters of yore Tinfo is profoundly, Tinfo. "It's about discovery" he says. "I see good where there is good, in all works and styles, that is what

- *Kent Wallace*

I look for, the positive qualities." His works reflect both attitudes – the desire for freshness and the eye to recognize what "works". Tinfo seems something of a "painter's painter", his works are found in many other artists collections (I recently found one hanging in the living room of Peter Allegaert's home in Elk).

Do yourself a favor, get over to What's Afoot during the run of the Tinfo Retrospective. Remember: twenty-five years, quite an accomplishment, not painting for twenty-five years per se, but to have created a body of work which spans that time and holds up, under the same roof, in one exhibition, now that, is an accomplishment.