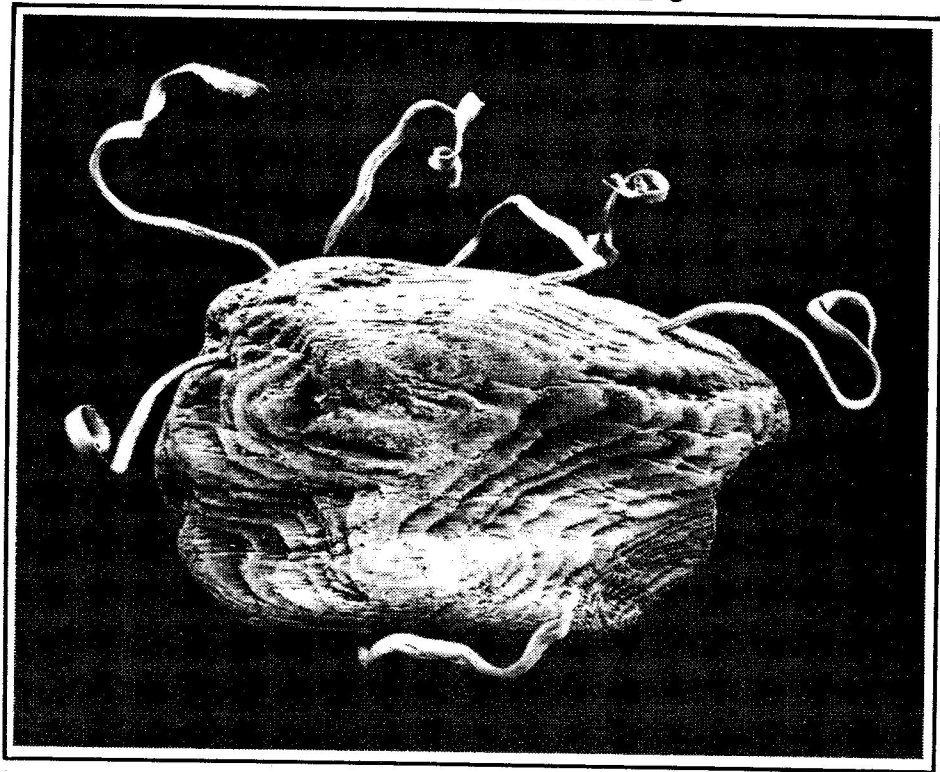


Driftwood sculpture

Local artist Ilja Tinfo's latest work — painted driftwood sculpture — is now showing at Temptations Gallery, Mendocino, until Oct. 28.

The driftwood, which he collected from Portuguese Beach in Mendocino, was dried, cleaned and then painted with brilliant acrylics to highlight the natural forms. Tinfo also uses petrified sea kelp, brightly painted, to complement the wood forms.

Called "Transformations" by the artist, these are paintings on a canvas formed by nature. Tinfo transforms the driftwood by adding the paint. Two freestanding pieces have been hand-carved as well as painted.



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Tinfo paintings on display

A collection of newly completed paintings, "Spheres and Other Circles," by Ilja Tinfo, a resident of Mendocino since 1975, will be shown at the Mendocino Bakery on Lansing Street starting May 1 and running through May 30.

The imagery in these illusionistic paintings is inspired by and derived from found objects, mostly pieces of metal that have been transformed by nature, particularly the sea.

By using these objects as templates, the artist has created an other-worldly environment — dreamlike, mysterious and

enigmatic environment — a glimpse perhaps into another reality where strange creatures emerge from seemingly abstract designs.

Poetry at MAC

There will be an evening of poetry, song and music on Friday, May 8 at 8 p.m. at the Mendocino Art Center, presented by Karin Faulkner, Cindy Frank, Jess River and Friends with Bob Treadwell playing original piano compositions.

A donation will be accepted at the door.

In last week's Beacon Daniel Altieri gave a very favorable review of Ilja Tinfo's "Salt Point" rock paintings, currently hanging at Temptations Gallery. These are very strong works and they are quite different in style and subject matter from other things I've seen by Tinfo who is, clearly, an accomplished and versatile artist. What about their investment potential?

At Temptations, off Lansing Street, through December 2nd, Ilja Tinfo shows a series of paintings based on the rocks of Salt Point: sensuous natural forms scoured and shaped by surf, salt, and wind-blown sand. Ilja has worked in many styles and mediums through the years, among them: painted driftwood, airbrush abstractions, and acrylic surrealism. This present series of oils on linen may be his most effective creations yet.

I'd like to draw your attention to some distinctive air-brush paintings by Ilya Tinfo which may be seen currently at the "King of Hearts" shop across Lansing Street from the Savings bank. Using silhouetted saw-teeth, gears, feathers and what-have-you Ilya develops complex compositions in low-key colors that I and many other viewers find quite appealing. See for yourself.
