

THURSDAY, September 23, 2004

Art explores myth of the American Dream

BRISBANE artist Beth Grossman's new series of work, "First Comes Love," makes its debut Monday at the Belmont Arts Council Gallery in the Twin Pines Art Center. Using found objects which she imbues with stories and history, Grossman probes the myth of the middle-class American Dream.

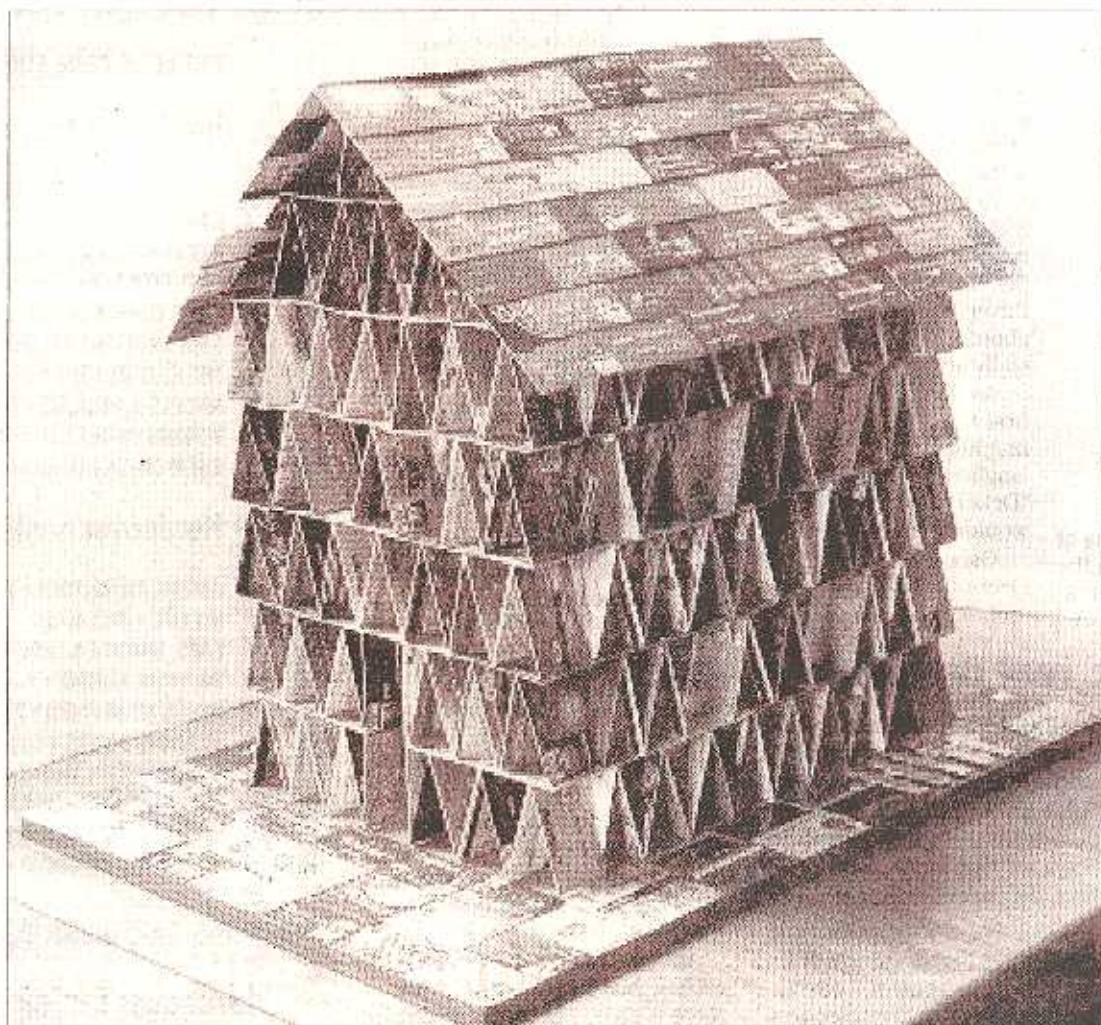
She bases her work on her personal experience as a married, middle-class artist and mother, celebrating her "coming of age during the feminist movement of the 1970s."

Grossman hopes the exhibit can open some paths to "an open discussion about the ways we keep ourselves isolated and remain silent in order to maintain our comforts in the middle-class," noting particularly the "role that sexism plays in keeping this silence in place."

The relationships between men and women are key. In "First Comes Love" Grossman begins with ordinary domestic objects, which she chooses for their shape, function or cultural symbolism. Her works offer many layers of understanding, with a humorous undergirding.

A reception for the exhibit will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 3. "First Comes Love" remains through Oct. 29. The project was underwritten in part by the Peninsula Community Foundation and the Puffin Foundation.

The Belmont Arts Council Gallery is at 1219 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call Grossman at (415) 467-1836.



HOUSE OF CARDS: Beth Grossman's series "First Comes Love," which attempts to reconcile the American Dream with the reality of day-to-day life, opens Monday at the Belmont Arts Council Gallery.



Bonny ZANARDI

Saturdays. Call (650) 941-7969.

San Mateo County Times, 1080 S. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA

Information on visual and literary arts can be sent to Bonny Zanardi,

94402, faxed to (650) 348-4446 or e-mailed to bianardi@aol.com.