



critics' pick

BEST IN PAINTING: Julie Weitz

Nothing captured our attention this year quite like Julie Weitz's enigmatic paintings. On pure white paper, her delicate renditions in gouache of a particularly charged symbol — the hood, in its various iconic forms — sent a little shiver up our spine while arousing admiration for her nearly flawless technique. From the KKK to Abu Ghraib, Weitz's hoods summoned thoughts of bogeymen, as well as entities with more ambiguous associations, yet somehow managed to be vaguely comical, divorced from their real-life contexts.

BEST OF THE BAY 2008: THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

With all the smears and e-mail rumors, it's gotten so that no one except maybe George Washington back from the grave could survive a fight for the White House with grace and reputation intact. (Nah, not even him: They'd dredge up the cherry-tree thing.)

But have hope. There's one election where the choices are still clear. Where the voters remain enthusiastic and the candidates retain their honor. Where the results are trustworthy and the rejoicing unfettered: Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay.

As usual, the winners come in two varieties: those selected in our Readers' Poll, and those chosen by our writers and editors. Readers voted online in record numbers this year, while our Staff Picks cover a wide cross-section of Bay life. We give you Best Politician and Best Place to Buy a Stun Gun. We tell you the Best Beach for Making Out and the Best Ob/Gyn. There's Best New Band, and there's Best Mullets (the hairdo, not the fish).

Just remember to bookmark. Even if the wrong guy wins in November, you'll still have a reliable guide when it comes to choosing, say, a beach to make out on. That's gotta count for something.

– *David Warner*