



Top: *I Come From Here*
Bottom: *Wishy Washy*

TWO OF A KIND

Sibling rivalry (and revelry) reach new heights in the exuberant and edgy art of *Clayton Brothers: Inside Out*, on view at the Pasadena Museum of Contemporary Art from May 15 through Sept. 4.

The exhibition includes paintings and mixed-media installations by the brothers Clayton — Rob, 47, and Christian, 43. They both teach at Pasadena's Art Center College of Design and each lead separate home lives with their respective wives, children and dogs at opposite ends of Pasadena. Yet their creative lives are so intertwined that neither can take sole credit for any of the work they create together.

"It's a totally collaborative process," says Rob. "We start talking about what we've seen or heard. An idea or theme develops. Then we start work, each building separately on what the other has done. Some stuff gets disappeared, some gets brought bigger. It just builds organically."

It can get chaotic, Rob acknowledges, but that's part of the process. Art themes spring from the world around them, usually touching on some aspect of the human condition. *Wishy Washy*, for example, is a multi-media installation depicting a laundromat, inspired by a real laundromat called Wishy Washy near the brothers' La Crescenta studio; it's meant to illuminate the displacement many customers feel but can never identify when they use such a facility.

A series of paintings called *Patient* grew out of witnessing a motorcycle accident outside their studio. "We were about to do a show in Beijing, and we wanted a subject every person could relate to," Rob says. "We had watched emergency personnel at the accident scene and discussed the whole experience. We decided to approach our work from their perspective, trying to diagnose and correct certain ailments. We came to cyberchondria, which is the current trend of self-diagnosis on the Internet. So we decided to do a series that would somehow refer to all these things, something with emotional quality, intrigue and color."

Stephen Fleischman, director of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in Madison, Wisconsin, originally curated the traveling exhibition for his museum. He describes their art as "consistently informed by vivid color and an eccentric cast of characters...an obsessively rich body of work that strikes universal chords but remains deeply personal. Front and center are the unique people, animals and places that occupy the outskirts of the American psyche." — *Bettijane Levine*

The Pasadena Museum of California Art is located at 490 E. Union St., Pasadena. Admission costs \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students (free for members and free the first Friday of the month). Call (626) 568-3665 or visit pmcaonline.org.

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