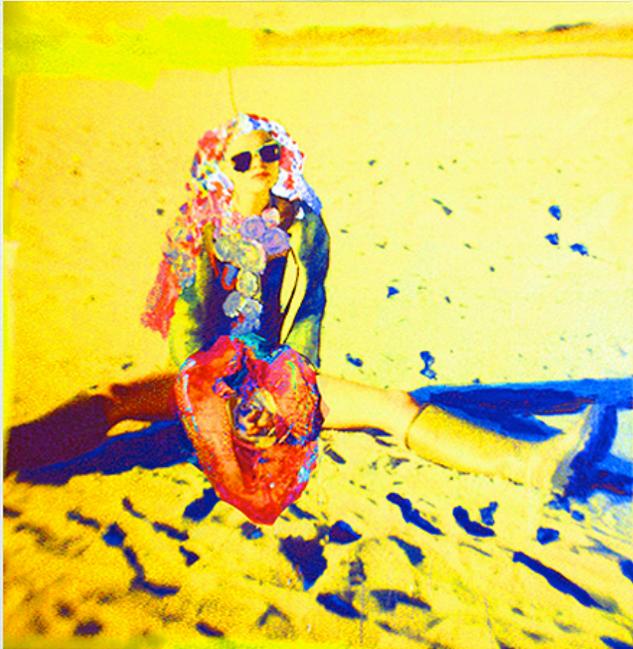


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bianca D'Amico - Sheela's Gig  
October 17th – November 1st, 2009  
**Opening on Saturday, October 17th, 8-11 pm**



Bianca D'Amico's Sheela's Gig stems from a recent love affair with the Sheela Na Gigs – medieval figurative carvings of naked women with exaggerated vulvas often found on churches and castles in the British Isles. Their purpose and meaning remain unresolved. Some theories suggest that they are fertility symbols or protections from evil, while others believe that these grotesque representations of femininity portray the monstrous nature of female lust.

"When first discovering the Sheelas I was thrilled by the carvings' contortionist abilities and aggressive yet welcoming pose. The combination of their opening vulvas and the possibilities surrounding their signification felt to me like the perfect invitation – an 'open door' to jump into. An invitation to befriend, extend or create a contemporary narrative for these carvings. My work deals with notions of feminism and the Sheelas have allowed me to visually reflect my emphasis on female sexuality and pleasure in a subversive yet playful way. They're partners in crime, parading their sexual parts in a happy marriage with all the other characters in my art world."

Bianca D'Amico, a California native, received her BFA in Painting / New Genres from Otis College of Art and Design in 2005 and her MFA in Art from the California Institute of the Arts in 2007.

D'Amico's artwork and videos have been shown at such venues as Telic Arts Exchange, Gallery of York University, Toronto, ON, Canada, Democracy Forum at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, The Egyptian Theater Film Forum, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and Le Cinématographe, Nantes, France. D'Amico is an avid gardener and is currently working in collaboration with the Highland Park Seedlings to design and build a community garden in Highland Park.

For more information on Bianca D'Amico's work please visit [www.biancadamico.com](http://www.biancadamico.com)

**At Sea and Space Explorations**

4755 York Blvd, LA, CA 90042

<http://www.seaandspace.org>

Gallery is open Sundays 1-5 PM, for performances and events, and by appointment.

Tel.: 323-445-4015. email: [info@seaandspace.org](mailto:info@seaandspace.org)

**DIRECTIONS** from Los Angeles: From the 5, take the 2 north. Take the Verdugo Road exit. Left onto Eagle Rock Boulevard. Right onto York Boulevard (major cross street is Armadale Blvd).

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