



"Waiting for Papers" by Julia Pinkham.

Now and Zen

by Elizabeth Schwyzer

THE MANY FACES OF BUDDHA: Now in its 10th year, the annual *Buddha Abide* show at **Frameworks** (813 Anacapa St.) has become a solid

WAVES AND CURLS: She's a dedicated surfer whose love of the ocean seeps through into her abstract paintings. Now through Sunday, May 30, **Julia Pinkham** exhibits a large body of work at **Artamo Gallery** (11 W. Anapamu St.). The 50 paintings in this show span from 2006-2010, making it possible to track her development from loose, looping lines to slightly more structured canvasses.

Artamo owner Jack Mohr has named the show *Inventory*, and indeed, you'll find the works that don't fit on the wall stacked on the floor awaiting perusal. "People are encouraged to dive into the stacks," Mohr encouraged, explaining, "I was torn between wanting a nice clean space and wanting to promote that kind of exploration." Those who take him up on his invitation will discover the depth of Pinkham's oeuvre, from the explosive, gaseous forms of works like "Triptych" (2006) to the incorporation of geometric shapes in "Waiting for Papers" (2008) through to the dense, sketchy universes of her latest creations, including "How They Won" and "The Shoe Dropped" (both 2010).

In one series, Pinkham becomes fascinated with chairs. Straight-backed chairs and stools appear beneath scratchy graffiti, sometimes as primary characters, sometimes forming a shadowy army en masse. Then there are the painterly equivalents of Rayonnant architecture: flame after flickering flame rising to a fiery crescendo. The beauty of these works is in the way they evoke complex and individual reactions. Like passing clouds or Rorschach inkblots, Pinkham's paintings invite the viewer on a journey into inner territory. For gallery hours and show info, call 568-1400 or visit artamo.com. ■