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Local artists reach out to peers in Cuba
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'It's possibly the first time Cubans are seeing contemporary printing.' — KATHY KENYON, VISITING ARTIST



Photo: a collection of Cuban faces / North County Times

Photos by visiting artists Freda Felschid, David Newlin, Oscar Ortega, Jee, Tere Quaresima and Victoria Gabriel make up this collage.

North County artists reach out to peers in communist nation

Story by Gary Warth ■ Staff Writer

For a group of North County artists, a recent trip to Cuba was a lesson in cultural tolerance and the politics of double-sided tape.

The trip, organized by Kathy Kenyon of Vista, took 14 pieces of print artwork from American and Mexican artists to a gallery and private home in Havana for a two-week show, with the group returning March 16.

With images of Cuban street scenes protruding the Ellen Groulx controversy still in people's minds, some Americans might wonder whether they would even be welcome in the communist country.

Kenyon, a printmaker and artist, and printer and painter Tere Quaresima of Del Mar learned that many of their preconceived notions of Cuba were wrong, and



This work, 'Dotted,' by Tere Quaresima, was displayed in Cuba with other art from America and Mexico.

much has changed on the island during the past decade.

"I shows though they didn't like us, but it's just the conservatism," Quaresima said. "The people were really nice. They loved us. We

were really surprised."

Americans who want to travel to Cuba as artists have found ways around government restrictions for years, usually by bringing them from Mexico or other countries. Cuba and her communist neighbors, involved with government approval or artists involved in a cultural program.

The trip, inspired by a chance meeting with a Cuban photographer and organized through a trade and international phone calls, may have planted the seeds for future exchange programs that could bring students painting techniques to Cuban artists.

"It's possibly the first time Cubans are seeing contemporary printing," Kenyon said about the show.

The visiting artists have been



BILL WRIGHT / VISUAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists Kathy Kenyon of Vista, left, and Tere Quaresima of Del Mar with remodeled prints by Cuba, representative of the work she took to Cuba. Kenyon's program was so successful that it resulted in an invitation for three more visits to Cuba.