



Davis Gallery

'Room 1' by Gladys Poorte is part of 'Possible Objects' at Davis Gallery.

Atypical arrangements made possible in paint

By Ari Auber

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With her paintings and the careful, lengthy process that goes into creating them, Gladys Poorte has not just depicted a hodgepodge of common objects, some that are broken or that she makes herself, others that are more recognizable.

By placing unrelated objects together in a setting where they do not typically belong, and using light and colors to establish a mood, she has created a surreal miniature world, "one that mirrors the world we live in or expresses it in some way," she said.

Twelve of her paintings and four of her drawings, on display Saturday through Sept. 8 at the Davis Gallery, are part of an exhibit called "Possible Objects" that celebrates the imaginative quality of still lifes.

Poorte's work will be arranged alongside the

'POSSIBLE OBJECTS'

Works by Gladys Poorte, Pablo Taboada and Daniel Mark Cassity.

Opening reception: 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday

When: Runs through Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays

Where: Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th St.

Information: 477-4929, www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

paintings of Shreveport artist Daniel Cassity and local artist Pablo Taboada.

The show came together after gallery director Bill Davis and assistant gallery director Lisa Rogers-Harvey considered the nature of still lifes.

"The artist constructs scenes by placing various objects in a desired composition," Rogers-Harvey said. "These constructions, however improbable in terms of the nature of reality, are lit and then painted, which in turn

makes them 'possible' or real."

And each of the three still-life painters played with this concept.

Poorte — who moved to Austin in 1995 after living in Argentina and Pennsylvania — said that she typically starts with an "impression," an idea about an interior or landscape that she then recreates using household objects like toys or tools. Before she can paint them, she must get the lighting just right.

"It's a little like playing God," Poorte said. "You create a new environment and decide what goes into it. I think that's what I find the most fascinating about working this way."

But she won't reveal what's happening in each of her paintings, even though they were inspired by something she saw on the street or in a newspaper. She also won't say what the objects are or were originally; she wants viewers to draw meaning for themselves.