

May 30, 2007

## First Friday Focus

By Lori Hill

The first thing you notice when you look at Joy Feasley's painting Harbor is the delicate patterning and intense colors — a saturated, psychedelic background to a woman looking through coin-op binoculars. Then you notice the exquisite detailing: individual pieces of fur on the coat, the chipping black polish on the thumbnail and the chubby whale on the knit cap. Suddenly you think, is this girl looking through binoculars or a



*Harbor* by Joy Feasley, vinyl paint on MDO

kaleidoscope? With a similar sense of mystery, Clare Rojas paints a raven-haired woman in a long white frock, head tilted back, mouth in a strange rictus. Her pointed feet and furrowed brow only make it more sinister, yet the painting is otherwise bright and the geometric patterns cheerful. Suddenly you think, is she laughing at us or with us? A new Locks show, titled "Pow-Wows or the Long Lost Friend," is a reunion of sorts for Feasley and Rojas, who previously showed together at the ICA's 2001 "East Meets West: Folk and Fantasy from the Coasts" exhibition. At the time, both were Philadelphia artists; now, Rojas lives in San Francisco, making this another East meets West collaboration. Both artists weave patterning and folk imagery into their work. Feasley reappropriates the Moravian star, while Rojas incorporates Pennsylvania Dutch quilting patterns and hex signs. Each approaches her subjects with an utterly original open-mindedness and an appreciation for the intersections of man, nature and beast. "Pow-Wow" is a must-see, as these kindred spirits may not align again for a while.

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First Friday reception June 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Artists' reception, Fri., June 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., through July 27, Locks Gallery, 600 Washington Square South, 215-629-1000, [www.locksgallery.com](http://www.locksgallery.com).

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