

Troy's Howell shows work in New York City

By KEVIN TUCKER
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TROY — Troy artist Busser Howell will exhibit a selection of R-rated, satirical political paintings at Peder Bonnier Gallery in New York City's SoHo district Oct. 5-31. The exhibition will be supplemented with four paintings from Howell's ongoing series of country and western inspired paintings and a selection of abstract works.

The exhibition is the artist's second one-man show in New York City, and his 11th nationally. In addition to his 11 solo exhibitions, Howell has participated in 13 group exhibitions. His art is included in over 40 private and corporate collections in the U.S., including the collection of Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and Family Circle magazine.

In 1995, it was included in "Art Beyond Sight," an exhibition of blind artists which was held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. Howell lost much of his vision at age 16, when secondary glaucoma caused the loss of sight in one eye and a 94 percent loss in the other. His vision has deteriorated slowly ever since.

The Trojan admits he's not entirely certain how the show will be received and said he runs the risk of "making some people mad."

"This is an interesting experience

and I'll have to wait to see what the response is," he said.

Howell's R-rated political paintings address the GOP's "Contract with America," the rape of the NEA, the Christian Coalition and the GOP, Rush Limbaugh and Newt Gingrich and other topics of recent political note. His country and western paintings depict men and women dancing, kissing, hugging and euphorically interacting.

By listening to the news, Howell developed the inspiration behind his satirical political paintings. As evidenced by his work, most of what he hears does not impress the artist.

"Actually listening to the news gave me the inspiration because of what these clowns pull off in Washington. I simply illustrated what they are doing," Howell said. "Obviously I use my own imagination and I paint what I think they are telling me. The strong sexual references come from politicians often getting caught with their pants down."

It was a long-term goal of Howell's to show in New York by the age of 50 and now at the half-century mark, the Troy resident is showing in Gotham for the second time.

"I'm really excited my work has made it there. The New York market is the leading market in the world for art," he said. "I'm looking forward to the show with much anticipation."



Howell's country and western art is part of the display