

# Gallery of Dreams

Best friends partner to pursue passions in two-man exhibit

by Patricia Sindelar

The latest show at RNG Gallery, *In Pursuit of a Dream*, is aptly named.

*Pursuit* features two young artists — Alexander Comminos and Iggy Sumnik. They are Jun Kaneko's apprentices, and they're best friends, said Rob Gilmer, curator and owner of RNG Gallery. Though they've exhibited separately at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, this is their first two-man show. Their work has a common thread in their artwork: texture.

with layers of acrylic paint. The result resembles one of Van Gogh's oil impastos — a landscape of brushstrokes cutting through piles of paint.

Most of Comminos's pieces pay homage to what must be his favorite shape: the spiral. Of



ART DREAM: The Comminos and Sumnik exhibit explores texture using a variety of techniques and materials.

Sumnik shows intricacy and depth in his piece "Chunk Stack," a colorful ceramic sculpture comprised of several twisting shapes atop each other. Gilmer said the piece is a gallery favorite.

"It shows the complexity of his craftsmanship," Gilmer said. "I see something new every time I look at it. Sometimes I see a fish or a monster eyeball or coral."

Sumnik emphasizes texture in his ceramics, most notably in "Tension Chum," "Gear Stack" and the "Cultural Fossil" series.


Comminos is a sculptor but emphasized paintings in this show. He texturizes the canvas

27 Comminos works in the show, roughly 20 are spirals, including three large clay spirals on the gallery's outdoor patio. Gilmer said "Kansas City," a piece with vibrant, opposing colors and lines making peace on the same canvas, is Comminos's most popular work, even though it doesn't have spirals.

"I know something makes good art when I look at it and go, 'How'd they do that?'" Gilmer said. "I look at this and I see a row of trees, then I see mountains, then flames and a southwestern landscape."

Gilmer let Comminos and Sumnik take to the gallery and hang their own pieces instead of cu-

rating the show himself, as he usually does. He acknowledged great confidence in both artists. It paid off: they sold 16 pieces in the first week and a half of the show.

"As a curator, you have to know when to step up and when to back down," he said. "If the art is good enough, it will speak for itself." 

*In Pursuit of a Dream* shows through June 22 at the RNG Gallery and Dixie Quicks Restaurant, 1915 Leavenworth St. Admission is free. Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.