

Q&A

ART

An artist's life



Paul Paiement's fascination of nature, and bugs, thrives from recognizing the 'man versus nature' elements of the world we live in.

Los Angeles artist Paul Paiement's egg tempera paintings and watercolors are on view through Feb. 14 in "Hybrids CSI." The works reflect his fascination with morphed forms — gadgets and insects — that are held to the wall with magnets.

What drives your interest in bio/tech

/science? It's the world we live in. I don't see it as man versus nature. A lot of people are very fearful that we are edging farther and farther away from nature. I see the period we are in right now, [and] we're so driven by technology as kind of a neo-Romantic movement. We're trying to reconcile. We've got all these ecological concerns, but we have to be progressive at the same time. To me, my work is all about reconciling the natural and the synthetic.

Why is the Smart car at the center of this installation? Because of the history of the Smart car and its relationship that we have to it as a society — being that it's an eco-friendly car.

And in this installation, you've painted the

Smart car to scale? That's an important part, because of the way we relate to images — how the experience of watching a movie in the theater is far different than on television. You can't focus your attention anywhere else. We're putting [ourselves] in a position we've never been in before — hopefully where this insect is maybe twice our size.

Do you drive a hybrid? No! I think the hybrid is going to be around for a very short period of time before there is an alternative fuel source.

IF YOU GO

Marx & Zavattero

Where: 77 Geary St., second floor, San Francisco

When: 10am to 5:30pm Tuesday-Friday;
11am to 5pm Saturday

Info: 627-9111, www.marxzav.com