
Posted on Thu, Jun. 08, 2006

Art watch: Charles Campbell Gallery

CHARLES CAMPBELL GALLERY

Where: 647 Chestnut St., San Francisco

Why it's worth a visit: The gallery, started in the early '70s by now-nonagenarian Charlie Campbell, deserves a historic marker out front. Already, the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art has acquired the gallery records for preservation.

Campbell began showing some of the Bay Area's most important artists, the Bay Area Figurative painters, back when the best gig a lot of them could get was Gump's Department Store in Union Square. Continuing to show these and other noteworthy regional artists, this venue has more of a sense of place than most. It's one of the region's most enduring art galleries and, better still, one of the friendliest. It's in North Beach, so there are plenty of great places to go before and after for food or some drinks.

Current shows: ``Frank Lloyd Wright: Selections From a Private Collection" and ``Noah Phyllis Levin, New Paintings." The Wright ephemera is from the collection of Walter Schmidt, a retired art teacher from Fremont.

When: Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., and by appointment. The current shows are up through June 24.

Expect to spend: At least an hour, particularly if you ask to see some of the little gems in the flat files.

Information: (415) 441-8680, www.charlescampbellgallery.com

-- Jack Fischer