



## Brush strokes

# Thoughtful photos display a deep irony

BY ELAINE HUJER

Susan Bozic's meticulously staged photographs are theatrical reconstructions of two very traditional art historical genres: the classical interior and the still life. But only those with a finely tuned sense of irony would choose to hang these images over the sideboard.

Bozic's *Affectations* (with Susan Dobson) was on display at Hamilton Artists Inc., 231 Bay St. N. The exhibit ran until June 19.

*Elaine Hujer is a freelance writer based in Burlington.  
905-637-8410, elainhujer@aol.com*



### The Salon, black and white giclee print

More expectations denied. Emptied frames, ambiguity and irony, in a salon that has been denuded of art. We understand the constructed nature of a painting and set it off from the real world by putting it in a frame. But a photograph is supposed to be a sort of slice of life. Bozic underlines the equally constructed nature of the photograph by framing her images with draped curtains and by printing in black and white.



### The Kitchen, black and white giclee print

Another reference to art history, in which the half-peeled orange and the broken nuts are meant to incorporate ideas of transience and mortality. But Bozic adds a mischievous monkey, perhaps to remind us of the old saying that 'art is the ape of nature' — art can mimic nature, but never replace it.



### Wave, black and white giclee print

A padded and fringed Victorian interior with implications of nature tamed. Notice how the curves of the waves imitate the back of the settee and the elements of nature have become property, captured and displayed by the bourgeoisie. But the incongruity of the electric light tells us that the setting is as false as the values that are proclaimed.



### Invitation, black and white giclee print

A photograph reminiscent of a 17th-century Dutch still life in which the most luxurious foodstuffs, crystal, china and linen were meant to show the wealth and prosperity of the owner. But Bozic has added a disturbing element that makes us rethink the entire genre: a bearskin with head attached which seems poised to greedily gobble up the entire feast. Animals eat animals, Bozic reminds us, and also, perhaps, we are what we eat.