

# Biography of Lozada highlights art, spirituality

## PUBLISHER FINDS KINDRED SPIRIT IN SCULPTOR

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Drive southbound on Main Street into Half Moon Bay and you'll find a forest of smooth wood sculptures, standing like silent sentinels with their own personalities as distinct as wood grain. You might also see a slight figure tending them.

That is Half Moon Bay resident Ken Paul Lozada, subject of a new book that will explore his art, sculpture and spirituality.

"Peaceful Warrior: The Life of Ken Paul Lozada" (Zenjo Press, 58 pages, \$14.99 softbound and \$49.99 hardbound), presents Lozada in biography, photos of his sculpture, drawings and his own writings about his art and the spirit he sees within it. The biography was written and the book compiled by Half Moon Bay artist and author Joanne Ehrich, who says that his life story and spirituality resonate with her own.

"His life story will help (people) understand the path that made him become like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis," she said. "I want to share this. I think other people can benefit from learning how to honor the gift of life in other people, that Ken has taught."

That kind of sharing has directed his life, Loza-

da said. "No matter where I go or what I do, I become a vehicle to honor the gift of life, anyplace, anytime, day or night, humans or any living creature at all on this physical plane."

"We all have this gift but the majority of humans don't know it. Those of us who are shaken up, have traumatic experiences (that) open us up to the dimension of who we really are, (discover) the actual being that dwells within every single human, which is a higher reference."

The book first touches on Lozada's signature drumming, his drawings of Victorian and other structures across the Bay Area and his "Sculptures of the Unconscious" created from recycled wood.

SEE LOZADA ▶▶ 38

▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Then it moves to his birth in San Francisco, his childhood in a Presbyterian orphanage during the Depression and ultimate reconnection with his family. He earned a theology degree and became an unorthodox missionary, breaking up street-gang fights or showing compassion to the man who robbed him at gunpoint. He married and had a daughter, herself a gifted artist, studied and taught art and created hundreds of pen-and-ink drawings of San Francisco's Victorian houses and other scenic structures, many on the Coastside.

After his marriage ended, he met and became engaged to Latvian immigrant Inara Barobs, who died in a car crash that left Lozada himself with severe injuries. Despairing after her death, he resolved to end his own life but did not carry out that resolve due to an intervening moment: he felt directed that he had work yet to do, to help others find their authentic selves.

Photographs from his life, his own essays on his sculptures, and "dialogues" with the wood that become sculptures, punctuate the book.

"My drawing laid a groundwork for my sculpting. I work with space, not the object itself," he said, explaining how he wraps line around space to give an almost living feel to a sketch of a house.

Of his sculpture, he continued: "Cast-off logs are like cast-off people. They don't have a voice until someone comes along and allows them to speak for themselves."

He sees that as channeling. "I don't think about it," he said. "It's coming from outside myself. I allow myself, as a sculptor or a human being, to get out of the way or be quiet enough to listen to whatever they want to say. Everyone has something to say."

Having something to say was what prompted the German-born Ehrich to take the first steps that led to publishing Lozada's story.

She had a background in printmaking, etching and photography when she made a fateful trip to the San Francisco Zoo in 1998 and became enchanted with koalas.

"Everyone was utterly transfixed by the sight of the mother and baby holding each other, the complete lack of fear of all the human beings staring at them, and their acceptance of their position in that

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## [ LOZADA ] Recalling an artistic life



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**Ken Paul Lozada and Joanne Ehrich** look at the book on his life, art and spiritual philosophy that she has just published.

moment of time," she said, smiling at the memory.

In 2001, working as a high-tech branding professional but wanting to design her own brand that incorporated the essence of koalas, she took copious photographs of the little creatures for her first book, "Koalas: Moving Portraits of Serenity." It was self-published through her company Koala Jo Publishing, with an afterword by animal expert Jack Hanna.

Her next book, "Nature Spirits," focused on abstract art of animals, nature and landscapes. "Peaceful Warrior," which she published through her Zenjo Press, was her debut into biography.

That book fits into "the genre of art and spirituality, and (Lozada) encompasses both," she said. "He has a way of connecting people from all walks of life with who they really are and (with) giving themselves permission to listen to their inner voice instead of what society tells us we should be ... What they need to do to listen to their authentic self."

That resonated with her. "For me it was, in the midst of turmoil, to find my own center."

She anticipates a June 15 release for "Peaceful Warrior," which will be available at Bay Book Company, Ocean Books and through amazon.com and zenjo.com. ■