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Local comic's advice to artists at DeCordova: Don't quit day job

The critic has spoken. But what would a comedian say about "Lighten Up: Art With a Sense of Humor," the new exhibit at the DeCordova Museum?

In his best "artistic" beret, local comic Rich Ceisler cruised through the galleries there the other day. He arrived with expectations: "The image of an artist submitting his comical pieces to the museum board, sweating and tugging at his tie a la Dangerfield, muttering 'tough curator' is what comes to mind," he said before he went.

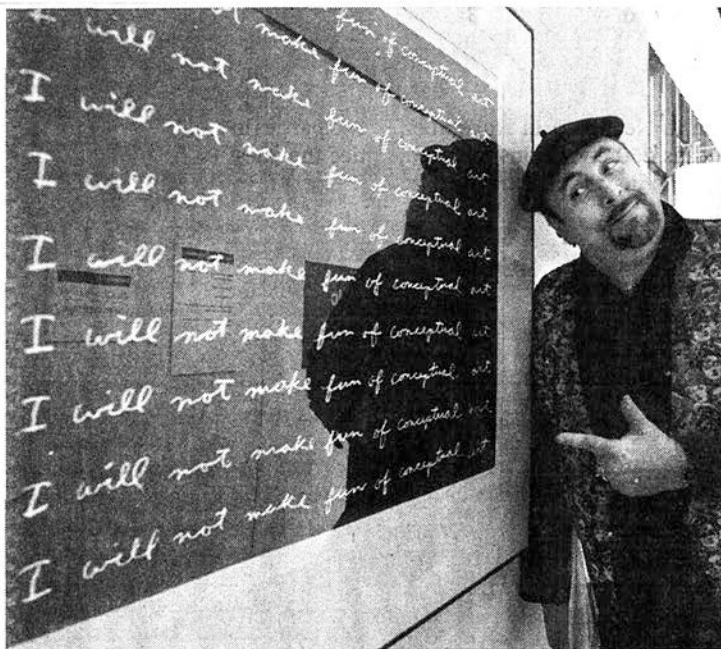
Here's what he had to say after: "Peter Thibeault constructed towers of Scrabble letters A and B and titled them 'One From Column A, One From Column B.'

Ouch! A lot of work for a pun.

"I enjoyed Jeffu Warmouth's collection of tin cans with creative labels such as 'Forked Tongue,' 'Peeled Toes,' and 'Crushed Resolve.' Obviously to be enjoyed with a fine Chianti and fava beans.

"Will you enjoy the show? You might, you might not. Your Aunt Martha from Nantucket would probably like you to take her, but no one will be spitting up his or her lunch in hysterical jags of laughter. Like I said, it's OK, but my advice to the artists? Don't quit your day job.

"I propose a deal," Ceisler added. "I won't put anything I think of in a frame, gallery, or anywhere near a museum, and you artists leave the jokes to me."



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JANET KNOTT

Local comic-turned-critic Rich Ceisler calls the "Lighten Up: Art With a Sense of Humor" exhibit just "OK."