

Gulf Coasting South

GCS



DISTINCTIVE POTTERY

North Naples store has wide selection for use indoors and outside

P4 <<

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

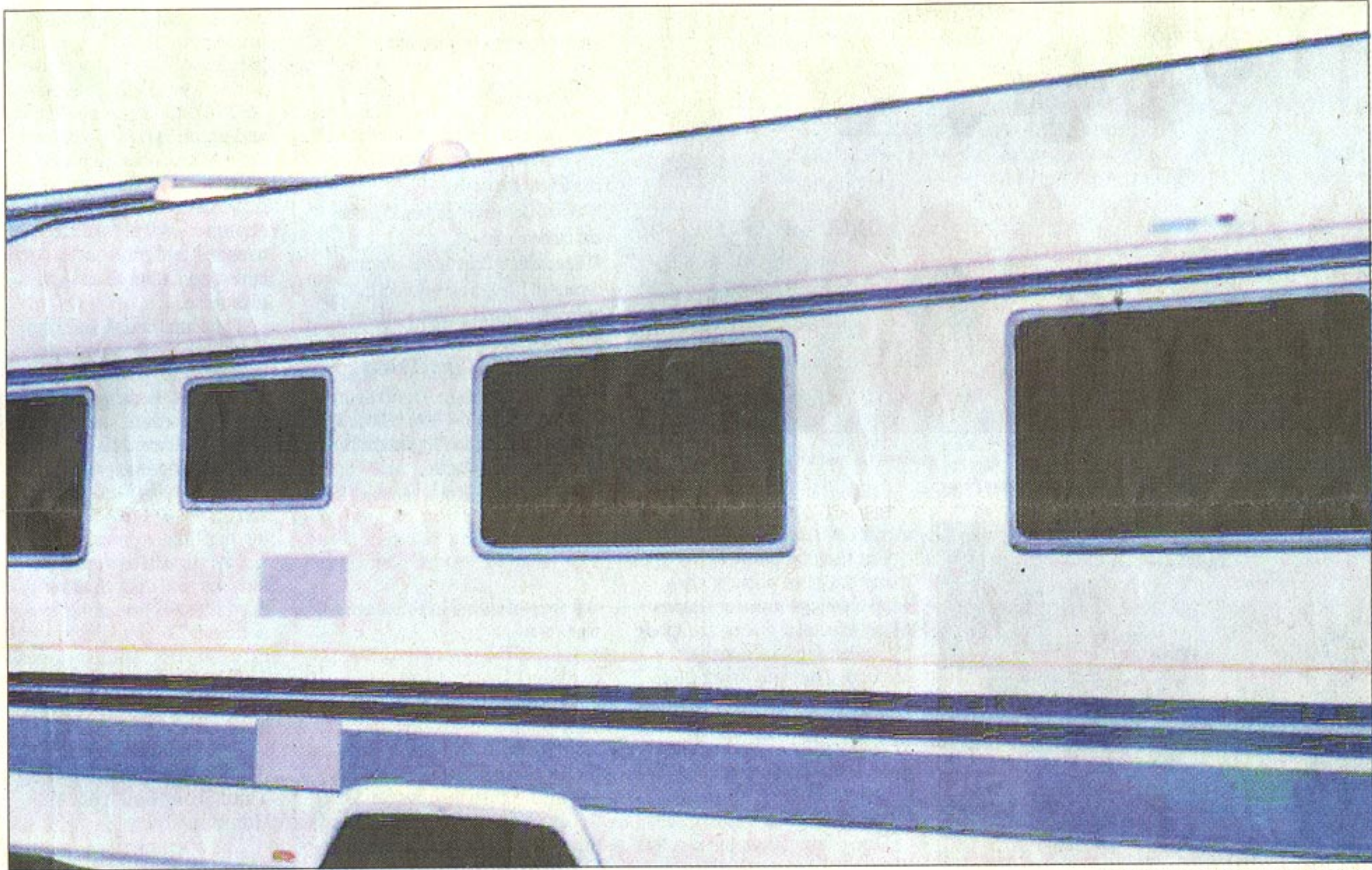
THE NEWS-PRESS • news-press.com

MYSTERY ART WORK

German painter Eberhard Havekost is featured at the Art Gallery of Florida Gulf Coast University



P3 <<



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

■ Eberhard Havekost often takes mundane images and focuses tightly on odd details. The idea is to force us to look at these everyday objects differently. Pictured is "Mobil 1."

MYSTERIOUS ART

German artist provides different look at normally mundane subjects

BY CHARLES RUNNELLS
crunnells@news-press.com

German painter Eberhard Havekost steers clear of the conventional.

Instead of country landscapes, you get the side of a trailer. Instead of portraits, you get a man pointing something at another man. Maybe it's a handgun. Maybe not.

It's Havekost's mystery and ambiguity that keep people like Scott Snyder wanting more.

"You're not quite sure what it's about," says Snyder, director of The Art Gallery at Florida Gulf Coast University. "The mystery. That's what's so attractive to me."

"You ask yourself: What's going on here?"

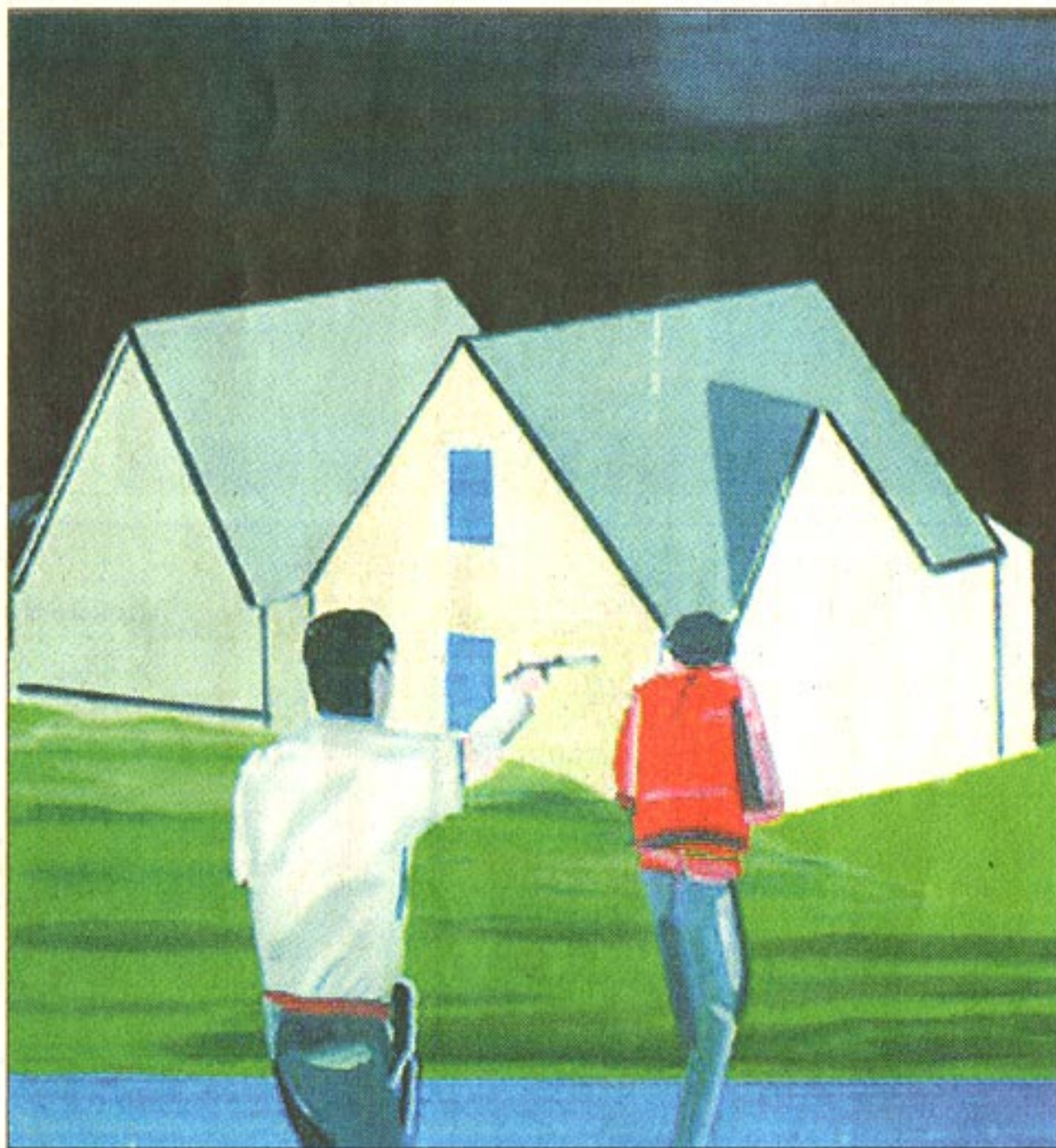
An exhibit of Havekost's paintings opens Thursday at the gallery. It continues through March 31.

The Dresden artist has been collected by major museums such as the Rubell Family Collection in Miami and the Saatchi Gallery in London.

"You're dealing with the higher echelon of collections and museums," Snyder says. "They're latching onto this artist."

Havekost's paintings are inspired by technology and modern life, Snyder says. "He's paying homage to the things we overlook."

The artist doesn't speak English. But in a translated interview for the traveling show, he discusses how he



■ In "Totale Idylle," the viewer isn't sure if it's a gun or not held in the man's hand. But the painting implies violence and mystery.

uses cropped images to make us see something new in mundane images such as car windshields and store shelves.

And — by showing only part of

his subjects — how he's commenting on the limits of photography, which can never show something in its entirety.

"Photography is a medium that

IF YOU GO

- **What:** "Eberhard Havekost: 1996-2006 Paintings from the Rubell Family Collection"
- **Where:** The Art Gallery at Florida Gulf Coast University, off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, east of Interstate 75 between exits 123 and 128. The gallery is in the Arts Complex on the university's main campus.
- **When:** Opening reception is 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday (including a brief discussion at 6:30 p.m. by curator Mark Coetzee). Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The exhibition continues through March 31.
- **Admission:** Free
- **Information:** Call 590-7238
- **Show sponsors:** Parker/Mudgett/Smith Architects, Inc.

restricts reality," he says. "In this respect, I see no difference between photography and painting."

"I reveal distortions that are already there."

Each Havekost painting starts as a digital photo of something he sees in the real world. Then he proceeds to paint it, giving it a slightly different form and color.

What Havekost is saying isn't always clear, Snyder says. And that's what he likes so much about the art.

"It's about everyday life and ambiguous situations," Snyder says. "But he's not spelling everything out."