

Orden, Abraham, San Francisco Days, ARTNET.COM, 7 February 2005.



Leave the Capital (detail) 2004

The last gallery features works by Shaun O'Dell, who has garnered much fame in the Bay Area and is beginning to be more widely known. The Stanford MFA is part of the Jack Hanley Gallery crowd (as is Evans), and was one of the gallery's most popular solo shows last year.

The enthusiasm for his work here is attested by the hordes of imitators populating the Mission District's studios. O'Dell works in San Francisco's style of choice -- folksy. His ink drawings well up from the depths of America's pioneer mythology, blending indigenous patterning in line with repeating icons from American history, the pilgrim, the Liberty Bell, the deer. Occasionally, something as historically remote as a mastodon will enter the mix, widening the images historical loop and broadening our interpretation. O'Dell doesn't proselytize like we might expect; happily the images do more probing than preaching.