

A one stop antique shop

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New Soquel collective features 23 dealers

Center Street Antiques

WHAT: A collective of antique dealers.

WHERE: 3010 Center St., Soquel.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

PHONE: 477-9211.

By **CAROLYN LEAL**
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

SOQUEL — Center Street Antiques is an antique lovers paradise. It's a one-stop shopping experience with 23 antique dealers and designers showing their wares in a rambling building at 3010 Center St.

Many of the dealers were associated with Tiffanys Antiques, which was at the same location.

But now, it's got a new name and a bright new look. The Center Street building has been refurbished and repainted. The collective opened last month.

The 23 dealers and decorators have transformed the former Soquel grocery store into a sparkling space with crystal chandeliers, glittering mirrors, Irish pine tables, china and silver, all artfully arranged into room-size settings.

"A lot of decorators come in to shop," said dealer Jan Bumgarner.

Her tiny 11-by-11-foot space features an eclectic mix ranging from two modern Bauer-style chairs to a vintage rattan table and chair set.

"We have everything from architectural to cottage to decorator lines," she said of the collective. Many of the dealers have been in the antique business for 30 years. They discover treasures at garage sales, auctions and flea markets.

"I'm constantly looking," Bumgarner said, "but it's getting harder to find things, and it's a lot more expensive."

Dealers pay for their spaces on a square-foot basis. They divide chores and share staffing responsibility.

The co-op is run in a democratic fashion. "We all have equal identity in the shop," dealer Trinidad Castro said. "The co-op is run by a committee of three, but we all have a vote."

If a dealer leaves, new dealers

are taken in on a first-come, first-serve basis, after their merchandise is vetted by a committee, Castro said.

One of the newcomers is Jan Howell, an interior designer who specializes in Florentine/Italian antiques.

"I have all antiques, not reproductions, from the 1800s to the 1920s," she said. "My goal is to have an elegant presentation. Just one piece could be used to highlight a room."

Howell also does antique shows, such as the high-end shows in Santa Barbara, Hillsborough and at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

"There's a wide variety, from the contemporary look to shabby chic," she said.

Linda Terpstra's room-sized space features a stenciled canvas rug in a leopard pattern and a chair cushioned in a faux zebra pattern, next to a formal Italian sofa. For the coastal look, there are two large conch shells, a shell-framed mirror and a life preserver.

"What we're trying to convey is fine beach living," Terpstra said.

Both she and her partner Myra Consulo offer interior design services as well.

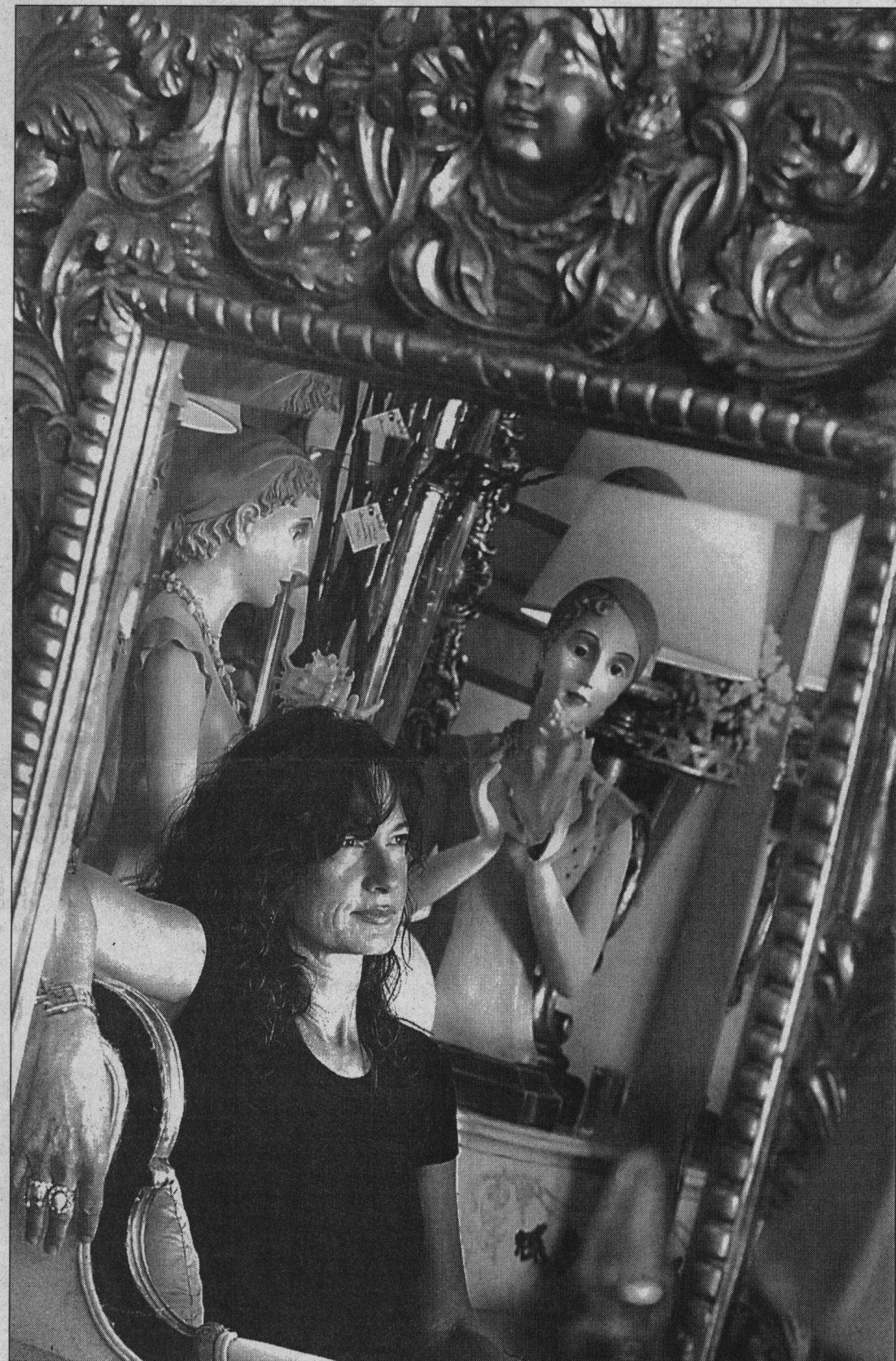
"We get out and find stuff in other cities such as San Francisco, Sacramento and Palm Springs," she said.

Dealer Trinidad Castro imports antique containers from Belgium and France and specializes in country and garden items. He also does handpainted windows in French motifs.

Castro, who works for UC Santa Cruz as a professional developer, has been in the antiques business for eight years. His 14-by-14-foot space has European flavor with architectural pieces and French-style garden furniture.

"I feel like it's a fresh start," he said of the new collective.

Dealer Don Schmidt said 18 of the original dealers decided to



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Linda Terpstra is reflected in a gilt-framed mirror as she takes a break in her space at Center Street Antiques in Soquel.

stay with the new business after Tiffanys closed.

"Two moved away and six new dealers came in," he said. "We're a little higher end on the antiques, and the shop has more of an interior design look."

The collective is like a family, he said.

Schmidt specializes in antique

furniture and paintings. Colorful vintage paintings fill the walls of his space.

"They are all originals," he said.

Schmidt also repairs and restores paintings. He has been in the antiques business for 35 years and has owned shops in San Francisco and Healdsburg.

Schmidt said he has no difficulty finding great paintings and antique furniture.

"We buy all around," he said, "People know us and they come to us."

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