Painter Futzie Nutzle’s rarely seen works, including those pictured above and right, will be displayed at the Cabrillo Gallery beginning Friday. Nutzle’s work was widely recognized in the late 1960s through the 1990s.

“Futzie Nutzle: Paintings and Works on Paper” will be on display beginning Friday at the Cabrillo Gallery.

The collection is the first major exhibition of work by the elusive artist in more than a decade. At one point, Nutzle, aka Bruce Kleinsmith, was one of the most widely known visual artists in Santa Cruz. From the late 1960s to the 1990s, his drawings, paintings, cartoons and posters were exhibited in places including the South Bay and San Francisco. He made a name for himself in the 1970s when he became one of Rolling Stone’s first cartoonists to be featured on the Letters page of the magazine. Nutzle’s work was regularly published in Rolling Stone and also appeared in The Prague Post and The Japan Times and in 10 published books.

Before dropping off the public’s radar, Nutzle was a thriving artist. Now, at nearly 70 years old, he is making a comeback. The exhibit at Cabrillo includes recent oil paintings and numerous drawings with saturated color and textural surfaces.

Nutzle has lived in San Juan Bautista with his wife, Halina, for the past 10 years.

A reception for “Futzie Nutzle: Paintings and Works on Paper” will be held Saturday from 5-7 p.m., with an artist’s talk Thursday at 6:30 p.m., at Cabrillo Gallery, which is in the library building of Cabrillo College, Room 1002. Cabrillo College is located at 6500 Soquel Drive in Aptos. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. The gallery will be closed April 4-8. The exhibit is free. Parking is available on campus.