Exploring ‘Familiar Mysteries’

Jessica Dunne’s oil on linen painting, “Commuters Castro Valley,” will be on display at the Cabrillo College Gallery.

Art exhibit opens at Cabrillo Gallery Friday with a reception tonight

By ERICK CHALHOUB

APTON — Visitors to the Cabrillo College Gallery will get the chance to experience the mystery of the familiar when San Francisco artist Jessica Dunne’s exhibit, “Familiar Mysteries,” opens tomorrow.

The exhibit features Dunne’s recent work and most are oil paintings.

“The theme is loosely, ‘work made by me,’” Dunne said. “When I put the work up together, I start to see the relationship between places.”

“If I had to name a theme, it would be something about the power of places.”

Most of the work in the exhibit is scenes of either roads, trees, or a little bit of both.

“The places I have painted are different, some rural and some urban, but none are free of man’s touch,” Dunne said. “I try to convey the sensation of being there, at that specific time of day or night, that very second.”

Dunne’s interest in painting began when she was in fifth grade, she said, when she illustrated Dunne’s “Inferno.”

“I could not wait to get home from school and draw hell,” Dunne said. “That was the tip-off that I wanted to become a painter.”

This is not the first time Dunne has had an exhibit at Cabrillo. She originally showed her work in 1992, according to Cabrillo’s Gallery Director Tohin Keller.

“I like showing work in colleges,” Dunne said. “I don’t teach, so it is a chance to see what is important to people who are starting out.”

During her time at UC Santa Cruz, Dunne said some of the most important art exhibits she saw were at the Bronson Gallery.

“As a student, I could go and just sit with the paintings,” she said.

A reception will be held today from 5-6:30 p.m. at the gallery. Dunne will have a talk following the reception.

The Cabrillo Gallery is located on Cabrillo College’s Aptos campus, 6500 Soquel Dr., room 1002. For information, call 479-6308 or visit www.cabrillo.edu/services/artgallery.