

The Dirty Palette

A Newsletter
Published by the
Art Guild of Pacifica
at Sanchez Art Center
August 2007

*“Painting is silent poetry,
and poetry is painting that
speaks.”*
—Simonides

Black & White & Color Art & Poetry

Barbara McNeill “For
Claudia Rankine”
(acrylic and charcoal)
Sydney Clark “Affinity”
(oil)
Sharron Walker “The
Shore” (photo/detail)



Sydney and Rod Clark, who coordinated the current show, were the perfect choice for such a venture. They have shared creative projects for more than five and a half decades. Sydney has taught art at all levels from elementary school to college and has exhibited in Houston, Austin, Carmel, San Francisco and here in Pacifica. Rod is a professor emeritus of San Francisco State University. His first volume of verse, “Rain and Other Facts of Life” appeared in 1994.

In our current show, Sydney’s painting of seagulls and surf “Affinity” is the perfect companion to Rod’s poem “Gulls,” which starts: *“I cringe against cacophony/ as shrieking gulls/ slash long wings into the roar/ of surf on rocks...”*

Janet Barker’s dual work “Orchid Wind” is a sumi ink painting on rice paper and an accompanying haiku: *“A graceful dancer/ leads the wind in harmony./ Fragrance is released.”*

Sharron Walker’s three photographs and poem entitle “The Shore” reads in part: *“Crabs scamper, mussels/ close their doors, seastars/ hold on tighter and/ seaweed is cast ashore.”*

James L. Weaver’s mixed media collage “Paper and String #2” is accompanied by a short poem: *“Silent billboard tatters/ resurrected to tax one’s/ imagination.”*

Shelia Gamble’s mixed media piece “Calendars” is an engaging collage of drawings and hand lettered poetry. A short quote reads: *“I would come/ to visit/ and she would be waiting/ by the glass door/ in her wheelchair/ eyes searching/ for my red car/ and when we came into view/ her eyes danced/ and love poured out/ all over us.”*

And there’s Barbara McNeill’s terrific piece “For Claudia Rankine” which has a bold yellow circle in an orange field and reads: *“Left the body open for the moon to break into.”*

Several works do not include poetry (which was only a suggestion, not a requirement for the show). Among the best are Aisyah Ang’s two triptychs “Quotation I, II and III” and “Quotation IV, V and VI” with their amazing use of bold swirling colors, designs and word fragments. And there’s James Feige’s astonishingly lovely glass piece “Implied Landscape Southwest.”



Binh Danh was born in a fishing village in southern Vietnam in 1977 and immigrated with his family to the US soon afterwards, settling in San Jose. He grew up in a traditional Vietnamese household, which included ancestor worship and those meditations on death seem to have now influenced his artistic themes of mortality, memory and spirituality.

Danh received his BFA in Photography from San Jose State University and later completed the MFA program at Stanford University in 2004. He calls his photographic process “chlorophyll prints,” a technique he invented for printing photographic negatives onto the surface of leaves, using the leaves’ own process of photosynthesis. While the leaves are still alive, they are pressed between glass plates with a negative and exposed to sunlight from a week to several months. Later, the fragile works are made permanent by casting them in solid blocks of resin.

To Danh his prints capture his belief in the interconnectedness of the natural world. His current exhibit “Jungles of Memory” is a haunting show with the stark gazes of Vietnamese from the war years staring out at the viewer. The preserved brown leaves with their straight-on portraits seem to comment on the frailty of life and the transitory nature of mankind’s political desires.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

49th AGP ANNUAL EXHIBIT will be our next show. Don Soker of the Don Soker Gallery in San Francisco will be selecting the award winners. Receiving will be Sun. August 26, 3-5 pm and Mon.. August 27, 10 am-noon. The reception will be Fri. Sept. 7th, 7-9 pm.

CERAMICS LAB The first Sanchez Art Center Ceramics class, taught by Sanchez studio artist Michael De Leon, was a success! These first few months of operation have functioned as a “pilot” project and we are ready to serve the needs of AGP’s ceramicists. If you are interested in using the lab or having your works fired, please call the office at 650 355 1894 or email kathleen@sanchezartcenter.org.

MEMBERSHIP: For future reference, members whose membership

has expired will receive only two notices before they are dropped from our roles. So please respond promptly when your notice arrives; we’d hate to lose you!

CREDIT CARDS: The Center is now taking credit cards for purchases of art.

HELP US OUT! We need help with **gallery sitting, hanging the shows, signing in artwork and serving at the reception table.** If you can donate a couple of hours of your time to help us keep the galleries open and running smoothly, it would be most appreciated. Please contact the SAC office at 650-355-1894.



Top: Allysen Bay C. Merrill "Dancing Anemone"
 Middle: Kyra Baldwin's "A Seal on a Rock"
 Bottom: Ciera Cavanaugh "Coralline Escape"

Each year, California students from kindergarten through the 12th grade enter their artwork and/or poetry that's inspired by the California coast. Some are whimsical, some political and some spiritual in nature but all share the fresh, unique viewpoint of youth. The Commission hopes the contest will inspire a greater sense of stewardship for California's beaches and ocean.

The program began in 1998 as a poster contest but was expanded four years ago to include art and poetry. Since then, more than 8,600 entries have been received.

Allysen Bay C. Merrill's watercolor "Dancing Anemone" is a standout piece in this year's exhibit with its bright colors and splattered technique. Ciera Cavanaugh's "Coralline Escape" is a bright yet brooding close up of a fish, while Kyra Baldwin's "A Seal on a Rock" is a gifted portrait of a white seal.

Other images of note are Michael Jankowski's "Drawing," Stephanie Chang's "Beach Ball Day," Sage Shrader's collage "Hands Across the Water," Cary Lin's "My Reflection," and Jayson Ho's "Flowing with Nature."

Among the notable poems are Sloan Martin's "California" which reads in part: *"California, I am leaving your sun-burnt hills and sun-burnt air, your dry, / fried sands and / stiff bitter grasses. / Your fruits ooze juices like the sea crawls on the beaches and your / dynamite-crackle / waves that draw so many, they are pushing me away."*

A sample from Anna Highsmith's "Remember the Beach" reads: *"Remember the sand and the / Squishy, smooth feeling between your / Toes / Remember the / Ocean / Can you hear the waves? / Splashing / On the rocks / Do you remember, the sunrise, the / Laughter and the taste of your sandwich / When you got sand in it / And the first step in the endless ocean gave a / cold shock."*

**I am always doing that
 which I can't do in order that
 I may learn how to do it.
 —Picasso**

ART QUOTES

ARTISTS SHOWS

TANYA LIN JAFFE has 3 shows • First, she's in the Concert Hall through Sept. 16 • She also is part of the Altered Barbie show thru Aug. 20 • 1554 Market St in San Francisco • Info at (415) 290-1441 or at <http://www.marketstreetgallery.com> • Tanya is also part of ProArts' - NEW VISIONS 2007 • Aug 1-Sept 16 • 550 Second Street, Oakland, CA 94607 • Info at (510)763-4361

TANGERINE ARTS GROUP SHOW • AGP Artists Jennifer Alpaugh, Kathy Dybeck, and Melinda Lightfoot, along with Tama Blough and Patricia Sundgren Smith • showing at Palo Alto Research Center • 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto • thru Sept. 28 • To view the work during business hours, contact Lisa Fahey at 650-812-4489 or lisa.fahey@parc.com.

AGP ARTISTS : Richard Herring, Teresa Bravo, Jean Lannen, Kathy Dybeck & Susan Bistline are currently exhibiting at the Art Waves Gallery • 3848 Judah (at 44th), San Francisco • Hours are 4 - 7 Thurs.. - Fri., and 12 - 6 Sat/Sun 12 noon - 6 pm • www.artwavesgallerysf.com

MOSAIC CLASSES Jude Pittman teaches design, materials, and techniques of mosaic art at the College of San Mateo • Fridays 9-4pm • August 24-December 18 • Enroll at www.websmart.smccd.net or call 359-4336.

CLASSES at Fogbelt Studio and Art Waves Gallery continue thru 2007 • In individual artist studios, the gallery and Fogbelt Studio • Schedules & registration forms available on both websites and in the gallery • www.fogbeltstudio.com & www.artwavesgallerysf.com

ART HISTORY AND WORLD CULTURE CLASS • Tuesdays 10:15 - Noon • Stonestown Senior Center, 3150 20th Ave. • Taught by Linda Dever, City College Professor, through lectures and films • Open enrollment, drop in anytime; call 415-242-7135.

SANCHEZ ART CENTER Gallery hours are Fri-Sun, 1-5 pm. Office hours are Tues-Thur 1-5 pm. (closed holidays)

The Dirty Palette is published by the Art Guild of Pacifica.

Officers: Nancy Victoria Davis (President/Treasurer), Katherine Curry (VP), Charlotte Seekamp (Secretary) Kathy Miller (Membership Dir.); and Directors: Ramon Bravo, Mary Harris, Alice Kelmon and JT Morrow.

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