

DIRTY PALETTE

A newsletter published by the Art Guild of Pacifica Sept. 2008
www.artguildofpacifica.org

50th ANNUAL EXHIBIT



A strong show, worthy of our golden anniversary.

50 years! No doubt, when twenty-two artists assembled in September of 1958 to begin the Art Guild of Pacifica, none of them could have imagined the strength of the AGP fifty years later and the quality of art created by its members. *(See more on the AGP's history on the special insert.)*

The Annual Exhibit is a strong show, worthy of our golden anniversary. Seventy-five members submitted work, which was wonderfully coordinated by Vicotria Vargas and the awards were selected by Jack Fischer of the Jack Fischer Gallery in San Francisco.

Four Awards of Excellence were given out. These include: Elizabeth McClellan's wonderful acrylic, "Backyard Alchemy." Achziger's striking abstract "Twilight's Carnival" done in acrylic and glitter. Wayne Jiang's mesmerizing acrylic, "Sherman's Wedding." And Gale Frances' serene oil triptych, "Three Days at San Gregorio." These four artists will have their work featured next year in the East Wing.

Seven Awards of Merit were made. These include: David Macy for his beautifully carved steel piece, "Standing Horse." Janine Stegmaler for her pastel on paper, "Haitian Poet." Susan DeLora for her acrylic of a dog, "Untitled." Jan Hanway for her haunting photograph in litho film, "Tombs." Jean Lannen for her playful photo/acrylic piece, "Bozo's Big Secret #1." Carol Guion for her elegant ink work, "En Vie." And, finally, Jamey Brzezinski for his terrific oil on masonite, "California Burning: #26 Hearth."

But the show contains many more pieces worthy of praise. John Andreas' beautiful pastel, "By the Slough" was a quick sale. M. Victoria Vargas created



a bold portrait in fiber, "Picture in Picture." Charles Dennis McDevitt's "Blue on Blue" is an oil on panel of an antique car parked under a deep blue sky. Nancy Mona Russell's abstract, "Dapple" (acrylic on canvas), contains lovely shades of blue, red and yellow. And Linda Dever "Melted Memories" is a mixed media of shades of blue and touches of other colors.

Alice Kelmon's "Bayou" (mixed media on panel) is a striking piece. Kathy Dybeck's "Friends Playing "Dress Up" (monotype with collage) is a beautiful work. Jennifer Alpaugh's "Prairie Girl" (oil on canvas) is a wonderful, subdued portrait. Mary Harris has a dazzling abstract acrylic, "Jazz on a Sunday Evening." And Richard Herring returns with an eccentric acrylic piece, "Ramona Encounters the Johnson's Electric Cow."



Linda Salter's "Perspectives" (oil) is an insightful work of women from a distant world. Laura Williams "Litta's Visto" (oil) is plein air at its best. Taryn Smith's "Flow" is a mixed media work that is a very accomplished piece. Sheila Gamble's acrylic, "Alaskan 'Champ,'" appears about as daring as its subject. Cherry Elliott's "Untitled" (paper mache) is a wonderfully

(top) Elizabeth McClellan, "Backyard Alchemy" (acrylic)
(bottom) Wayne Jiang, "Sherman's Wedding" (acrylic)



disturbing paper mache of a horse biting an arm. Rod and Sydney Clark both contributed work; Rod with "Pansies" (altered photography) and Sydney with a watercolor "Vibrant Blossoms." The always inventive Ramon Bravo contributed an assemblage, "Kahuna Kupuna." And John Meria's large oil, "The Monarch and the Crown," jumps off the wall.

Plus too many other wonderful works to mention here.

(left) Gale France, "Three Days at San Gregorio." (detail) (oil)
 (right) Achzinger, "Twilight's Carnival" (acrylic & glitter)
 (below—left to right): Charles McDevitt, "Blue on Blue" (oil);
 M. Victoria Vargas, "Picture in Picture" (fiber); David Macy,
 "Standing Horse" (detail) (carved steel); Jean Lannen,
 "Bozo's Big Secret #1" (photography, pigment print, acrylic)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Bay Area Annual Exhibit follows our 50th Annual Exhibit, starting on Oct. 24.

GREGORY KONDOS, one of California's foremost contemporary landscape artists, will offer a "**Contemporary Painting Workshop**" at Sanchez

Art Center, October 18, 19 & 20, 9:30-4:30 pm. The cost is \$300. The brochure with registration form is available online at www.sanchezartcenter.org under "Classes/Workshops." Or call the Art Center at 650-355-1894.

ARTISTS NEEDED! Sanchez Art Center is hosting a benefit auction, **Hit the Deck!** on Friday, November 14. Proceeds will support the Art Center community outreach activities and the Pacifica Skatepark. Auction includes skateboard decks, helmets, and mini-surfboards, all to be customized as unique works of art by the best of our local community of surfboard and skateboard deck artists, airbrushers, anime and manga illustrators, painters, mosaic, assemblage, and other expert artists.

The mini-surfboards are being shaped by the renowned Ward Walkup of Neptune Surfboards and The Log Shop is providing deck blanks and helmets at a generous discount in order to help this project get off to a good start.

We anticipate the skateboard decks (which will not have wheels) will be wall or shelf art, just as the mini-boards are. The helmets, however, will be functional. Either way, there is lots of room for

creativity here!

We have 20 skateboard decks, 20 mini-surfboards, and 20 helmets. Won't you please consider joining the artists of Sanchez Art Center and your brother and sister artists of our community in helping to create what we believe will be very special pieces of art?

Pieces completed in time for Fog Fest (Sept. 27 & 28) will also be on display at the Art Corner, with full artist credits given. Items completed by October 18 will be included in the special Surf's Up! exhibit in the Sanchez Art Center East Wing Gallery from October 24 through November 22. Visit www.sanchezartcenter.org for more information about the Surf's Up! exhibit.

The Hit the Deck! auction will take place on Friday evening, November 14, with a private reception at 7 pm for participating artists, donors and volunteers. At 8 pm, the doors will open to the public, and we will charge \$10 admission for an evening of fun, tasty treats, music, and, of course, art. There will be a silent auction, a live auction, and in the days leading up to the event, an online auction. Won't you please consider lending your talents to the creation of a mini-board, skateboard deck, or helmet? Please feel free to ask your friends, especially the famous ones! Materials should be available at the Art Center.

Thanks for your consideration. Please contact info@sanchezartcenter.org or call Kathleen at the Art Center (650) 355-1894.



Winners of last years Awards of Excellence are on display in the East Wing.

Georgia Storti is a San Francisco native and studied at the San Francisco City College. Her artistic interests are in the materials she uses and the process involved in combining various media. "These paintings are expressions of my love for nature," she says, "and are meant to be explorations of my memory and dreams as well as my psychological reality."

Kathy Miller graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology but when she encountered her first ceramics course at UCSB she quickly became mesmerized. She believes art is an expressive interaction between the artist, materials and the viewers. "Images surface," she says, "from the core of the artists' heart."

Annette Poitau hails from northern France. She received her MFA from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. She also studied at the Cooper Union in New York City. Annette's paintings are rich in color and texture. The artist states: "Every painting is a sort of intimate dance with matter and primordial gestures, a dialogue between my will and the chemical reaction of the colors."

Cynthia Rettig was born in Southern California and moved to San Francisco to attend the San Francisco Art Institute where she received a B.F.A and an M.F.A in photography. She is interested in how people view and consider the natural world and how man is drawn to bringing the "outside" in. Many of her images were taken at an auction house, a zoo, and from everyday life.

(top left) Georgia Storti, "Untitled #14" (mixed media)
 (top right) Kathy Miller, "Primordial" (mixed media)
 (center) Cynthia Rettig, "Lion" (gelatin silver print)
 (bottom) Annette Poitau, "Untitled #14" (oil on canvas)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

Arts Council Silicon Valley is awarding one **\$4,000 fellowship** to an individual artist for work in each of six categories. Application deadline: November 14, 2008. For Guidelines and Application, go to <http://www.artscouncil.org/grants/grants/forindividual/artist.asp> <<http://www.artscouncil.org/grants/grants/forindividual/artist.asp>>

The Kingsley Art Club and the Crocker Art Museum seek entries for juried exhibition, the **75th Crocker Kingsley Biennial**. Open to painters, sculptors, photographers, printmakers and craft artists who currently reside in California. Submissions due November 15, 2008. Exhibition will be on view at the Tsakopoulos Library

Galleria in downtown Sacramento, January 10-February 6, 2009. Submit applications online at www.crockerartmuseum.org/kingsley. For additional information contact Libby Figeroid at (916) 961-9779, libbyfig@aol.com, or Allison Henley at (916) 808-8770 ahenleyreed@cityofsacramento.org

ArtPerk - www.ArtPerk.com - is a new website for artists to find venues to display their work! You can search for organizations that are accepting entries, hosting openings, or have other art related opportunities. We list opportunities throughout the nation.

ARTISTS' SHOWS/ WORKSHOPS

GALE FRANCES, a docent at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, has an oil on canvas piece "An Untitled Woman" in the SFMOMA staff show opening on July 18 • The work will be on exhibit until November 14th.

JUDE PITTMAN's "New Works: Paintings & Giclee Prints" • Avenue 25 Gallery • 32 West 25th Ave • San Mateo, CA 94403 • Sep 8-Oct 30 • More info at www.avenue25gallery.plsinfo.org

ANN WEST'S solo show at Hang Gallery • 556 Sutter, San Francisco • thru Nov. 6 • Gallery hours Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 • More info at www.hangart.com or (415) 434-4264.

TANYA LIN JAFFE is in a group show: "On the Edge" • thru Sept 30 • Coastal Art League in Half Moon Bay

SYDNEY CLARK & ROBERTA EWALD at Pacifica Art Connection's Quarry Cove Gallery • 255 Rockaway Beach Ave. next to Pacifica Visitor Center. Sept. 14 — Oct. 20.

MICHAEL DELEON & MICHELLE KERN'S annual show of ceramic sculpture • Cricket Engine Gallery • 499 Embarcadero Ave./ Oakland, Ca 94606 bldg 3 • Opening Sat. Oct. 18th, 4-8pm • Hours: Sun. Oct 19th 1-4, Sat. Oct 25th 1-4 • Info at 510-835-1920 www.cricketengine.org

TOM EKKENS' art and photography • Sept. 13 - Oct. 11 • Salada Beach Café (220 Paloma Ave. in Pacifica) • Info at 650-355-4640 or visit www.backspaceink.com/taegallery.

LYLE HOOD received 2nd place award at San Mateo County Fair for his painting "Seascape" which was also exhibited in AGP's show "Surf, Turf & Plunder."

FOGBELT STUDIO will be in session by mid November with two classes by Kathy Dybeck: Cyanotype- Not just the Blues! (Prints on Paper & Fabric with Color Variations) / Sat, 11/15 • Making Paper... Eastern-Western Techniques / Sunday, 11/23 • Each class is 11am to 3pm, all materials provided, cost \$45 • class size limited to 4 • Info: fogbeltkd@aol.com or 415-244-8402

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), Katherine Curry-Meria (VP), Jude Pittman (Secretary), Jennifer Alpaugh (Treasurer), Kathy Miller (Membership Dir.), Nancy Russell (West Wing Chair); and Directors: Mary Harris, Alice Kelmon, Gale Frances and JT Morrow.

Dirty Palette Editor: JT Morrow. For announcements call (650) 355-7899 or email jt@jtmorrow.com Copyright, 2008, Art Guild of Pacifica

"Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others."

—Jonathan Swift

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ART GUILD OF PACIFICA

H I S T O R Y

Eisenhower was President. Elvis reported to the army but he still rocked the radio. Cars sported fins like tropical fish. The San Francisco Giants made their debut. And millions of kids twirled inside Hula Hoops. Meanwhile, the Pacifica Postmistress, Juanita Lombardi, (who was selling stamps for 4 cents each) noticed something odd. An amazing number of talented artists lived in this newly incorporated city of Pacifica. Juanita made it

her mission to gather these artists together and twenty-two of them became charter members of the Art Guild of Pacifica in September of 1958. In appreciation for Juanita's vision and her work, the Guild chose her as their first president.

One of those members, Don Carlson (who did everything from teaching art and jewelry-making to bottling Zinfandel in a winery he'd built under his house), constructed display flats so that members could display their work in shopping centers and in outdoor venues.

The Guild was off and running.



Sea Bowl, site of AGP's first formal exhibition

From its start, the Guild stressed art education as well as promotion of the arts. They invited artists to lecture and demonstrate their techniques. They worked with local school children and volunteered to help the city in other capacities. Originally the Guild only exhibited paintings and sculpture but, over the years, ceramics were added to the mix. And in time, fabric artists and photographers were also invited to display their work.

At first, the Guild held meetings in rooms provided by community-minded businesses such as Central Foods Market and Sea Bowl. Indeed, the Guild's first formal exhibit was held at the bowling alley. Later, after the new library on Hilton Way added a community room, the Guild began holding their meetings there.

"A pattern developed," recalls Roberta Ewald of those early days. "A big open-air spring exhibit (would be) followed by a formal show in November. Sydney Clark and I organized a citywide Art and Music Festival on Mother's

Day weekend, with folk dancing and a Marine band at our huge exhibit at Sanchez Adobe, as well as concerts in churches and art events throughout the city."

By 1969—as Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon and nearly half a million young people descended on Woodstock—membership in the AGP had grown to 80. Formal shows were moved to the Pedro Point Fire House. Engraved invitations were sent out, requesting semi-formal dress. Guests included civic dignitaries and art critics. Opening nights quickly became one of the city's crowning social events.

Yet by 1977—the year *Star Wars* burst into theaters and *Roots* mesmerized TV viewers—

the fizzle was slowly disappearing from the AGP.

Membership had declined through competition with a new group, the Pacifica Arts & Heritage (which eventually concentrated

on performance artists and morphed into Pacifica Performances). Still, a few members struggled to keep the AGP going. Even the year of the big flood in 1982, couldn't stop the annual show. A rain-soaked Rod and Sydney Clark arrived for the reception and Rod announced, "I must really love these people to get out in weather like this—or else I'm crazy." We prefer to think it was the former. It was Rod, in fact, who fashioned together a set of bylaws for the board of directors, which helped the Guild to expand into the future.



Pedro Point Fire House

Still, by the year Iran-Contra dominated the news and *Moonstruck* charmed moviegoers—1987—the AGP was only limping along. Mary Harris recalls Roberta Ewald decided to throw a big party at her house, inviting all the artists she could find. The result was a fresh start for the AGP and a wonderful exhibit at the Terra Nova Church Center. The Pacifica Tribune wrote an article about the Guild's recovery and entitled the piece "Art Guild, like Lazarus, Revived from the Dead."

In 1996, the city of Pacifica acquired the Sanchez Elementary School property. Patty Jones, the AGP president, and local artist Andrew Leone pooled their ideas for turning the abandoned school into an art center. The Guild, as a long standing community art group, was granted a lease by the city and, after forty years, the Guild finally had a home it could call its own.

According to Debbie Grech, "The first tasks were covering up unsightly graffiti, converting the school's library into a state-of-the-art 'jewel' of a gallery, painting the interior hallway, and peeling off layers of wallpaper in the office before giving it three coats of paint. At the same time, those Guild members renting studios were busy sprucing up their own dilapidated spaces. Art Guild members worked side by side, propelled toward a common goal—to transform a rundown old building into a premier art center."

In January of 1997—the year *Titanic* swept into theaters and *Harry Potter* made his debut on bookshelves—the Art Guild held its first meeting in its new home. The following month, a grand opening was held with the "Arts on Fire" exhibit during the Valentine's Day weekend. A crowd estimated at 800 patrons turned out. The event was reported on TV and in newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner, which ran full-page stories.

The following year Andrew Leone designed a mural for the front of the Sanchez Art Center and members of the Guild came together with other members of the community to bring the mural to reality. The mural gave the center added visibility and confirmed



Sanchez Art Center, current home of the AGP

to anyone driving by that a new excitement had taken root in Pacifica. Volunteers also created the mosaic archways along the East Wing with the help of Jude Pittman and Kathy Miller. And an Education Room was created for meetings and workshops.

This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary. That is an awesome feat for any organization and a testament to the strength of the arts in Pacifica over the last half century. We've overcome a few setbacks through the years and have flourished because of the vision, inspiration and hard work of our membership.

Today we have over 200 members and continue to bring art education and enjoyment of the arts to our community. The Sanchez Art Center houses three galleries and displays an average of eighteen exhibits each year, including the annual "Arts on Fire" show, the "Bay Area Annual" exhibit as well as the "Art Guild's Annual Exhibit." Art Talks occur several times a year, allowing people a chance to listen and interact with exhibiting artists and curators. And, over the last couple of years, the annual "Open Studios/Open Walls" exhibit has brought new excitement and patrons to the art center.

We'd like to take this time to thank our members, both the current ones and those who've been a part of our organization all the way back to those initial twenty-two members in 1958. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and inspired art throughout these last fifty years. With luck and the continuing involvement of our members the Guild will one day celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The Editor would like to thank Nancy Russell for her tremendous help gathering the information included in this article. Thanks also to Roberta Ewald and Debbie Grech for their earlier articles that were a huge source of information and to Rod Clark for reviewing the article.