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## THE GALLERY'S CURRENT SHOW

Through March 10

### REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SHOW

Dorothy, wishing desperately to get out of the magical but somehow unsatisfying land of OZ and back to the comfort and familiarity of home, dreamily repeats, "There's no place like home. There's no place like home." You can almost hear those Dorothy-esque phrases running through the thoughts of gallery visitors as they visually traverse the views captured in Wendy Franklin's paintings. Her featured show is entitled "Just Around the Corner: Scenes of Petaluma."



In her oils and watercolors, Wendy brings alive the line, form, and color of everyday scenes, something we so often see but fail to appreciate. The simple beauty of the streets we walk down daily becomes a visual treat conjured up by Wendy's brush.

*Street View*

Karen Spratt is always a favorite artist at the gallery due to the wit and skill she puts into her images. Karen's paintings for this featured show, entitled "Remembering Summer", have a lovely, nostalgic quality. Much of the work is dedicated to portraits of single flowers, something not at all common in Karen's work. Other images, such as *Afternoon Tree Party* evoke memories of the lazy summer days of childhood.

As a surrealist, Karen is adept at juxtaposing situations not commonly thought of together. With this show and its summer subjects, Karen places summer amid winter to accentuate and highlight those seasons and how we experience them.



*Afternoon Tree Party*

## ARTISTRY INSIGHTS

### PoMo & Sumi-e Techniques of Irene Korsky



*Sherwood Island, Chinese PoMo technique*

#### Po Mo Technique

“Distinctive” is an adjective that describes Irene Korsky’s fine works of art which are like nothing else in the gallery. She was shown at the White House in 1986 and is collected internationally. Master of multiple techniques and styles, Irene produces works in the Oriental PoMo and Sumi-e traditions.

The PoMo (Chinese translated as “splashed ink”) technique began in the late Tang Dynasty, but with time the tradition altered to include color. Irene’s PoMo works are Oriental in technique, but often not in subject or color choice. She paints on gold board--a gilded board with a thin rice paper surface. Rice paper absorbs paint and, when colors chemically resist each other, the gold board shows through, producing a light, translucent quality.

Silks and gold board are imported from Hong Kong. Glass vials of ground minerals (some are from semi-precious stones) are from Japan. Using a porcelain mortar and pestle, she grinds the pigment, mixing in deer glue or rabbit glue and water. The consistency has to be exact--too much glue causes distracting surface shine; with too little glue the paint flakes off the gold board. This direct application of ground pigments results in wonderfully intense colors.

To create a painting, Irene composes the work then begins to splash the pigments onto the gold board. In some works, a brush is used to place the colors, but in others Irene slowly and carefully blows the pigments across the surface, adding a different pigment where a color change is needed. Blown pigments can express delicate features like clouds, misty waterfalls, and fog creeping over a ridge.

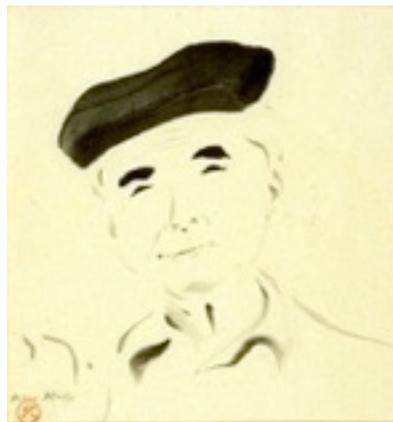
Irene has done paintings where the only physical contact with the image was to use a brush to draw a horizon line across the painting--all else was done by blowing pigments into place. The effects are akin to watercolors in the sense that where colors edge into each other it is not possible to predict what will happen, as in one work where God’s eye appears to survey the landscape from the Heavens.

This is demanding work, since each piece must be finished before the glue dries. For the entire time needed to complete a piece, Irene leans over the gold board, which must be kept flat so pigments don’t cascade down the board where they are not wanted.

#### Sumi-e Technique

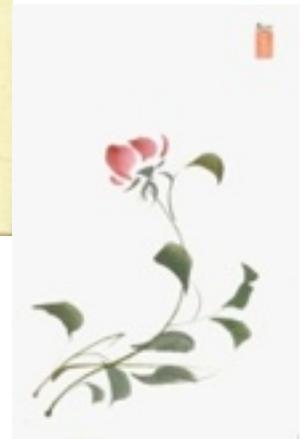
Irene studied with noted Japanese artists to perfect the line art known as Sumi-e (Japanese translated as “black ink painting”). One instructor defined the essence of Sumi-e as getting the most energy and movement with the fewest lines. Contemporary Sumi-e painting has expanded beyond being only lines to the addition of solid forms and color, but however rendered, Sumi-e art has an understated elegance that comes with studied simplicity.

Irene also paints Oriental and other motifs on silk and mixes media for unusual creations. She has taught classes in Oriental methods. Irene’s uniqueness arises from the fusion of two very different artistic viewpoints--Oriental and Western--applied to her own very personal vision. And if her high level accomplishments in these various techniques aren’t enough to inspire awe, check out the lovely portraits on her website.



*Amused, Japanese Sumi-e technique*

[www.irenekorsky.com](http://www.irenekorsky.com)



*The Rose, Sumi-e color variation on rice paper.*

### NEW TO THE GALLERY

Wendy Franklin works in oils and is an *en plein air* painter, meaning she sets up her easel outdoors and works on small paintings she can basically complete on the spot. Wendy's objective is to capture the local scenery that we may not notice in passing. Wendy paints mostly in oils, but also does watercolors when backpacking or on river trips (how appropriate!) For more information on Wendy, please see the Featured Artist article in the January issue of RAG Sheet.



[www.wendyggranklin.com](http://www.wendyggranklin.com)

### NEW TO THE GALLERY

Watercolorist, Peg Conley, specializes in florals, although these are not her only subjects. Peg has a degree in Commercial Interior Design and her sense of design is clear in her artworks.

She has authored a line of greeting cards that have been published commercially, as well as a series of floral calendars. In describing her inspiration for her work, Peg says she is "nurtured in Nature."



[www.pegconley.com](http://www.pegconley.com)

### GALLERY MEMBERS HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR SYMPHONY'S MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Symphony League's 35th Annual *Symphony of Food, Wine & Art* event will take place at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on February 21st. Wine, gourmet food, and local art, as well as music by members of the Santa Rosa Youth Ensembles are on offer.

Riverfront members, Jeremy Joan Hewes, Robert D. McFarland, Gus Feissel, and Sharon Feissel, were invited to provide a photography presence for the silent auction and small art and card sales.

The event raises funds for the symphony's music education programs which reach 5,000 to 10,000 children in Sonoma County annually. For information on the event and to buy tickets, go to [www.santarosasympphony.com](http://www.santarosasympphony.com) then click button below the Symphony League box. Next locate the Wine, Food & Art logo and click ticket button to get to the listing of concerts and events. Or call 546-8742.

### MEMBER NEWS

In February, Gus Feissel's winter photography at Gary Farrell Winery, (south of Wohler bridge) 10701 Westside Rd., Healdsburg 10:30 to 4:30



[www.feisselphotography.com](http://www.feisselphotography.com)