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March 16 - May 16

Art Walk April 10

Reception: 4:00-8:00 PM

BEST OF....AGAIN!

Riverfront Art Gallery, for the third year in a row, has been recognized by Sonoma County residents as a highly respected and appreciated local business. In The Bohemian's "Best of the North Bay Poll," the newspaper asks residents to nominate businesses and organizations they think are outstanding. "Best of" awards are given based upon readers' responses.

We were astounded when, only seven months after opening in October, 2007, Riverfront Art Gallery tied for 2008's "Best Art Gallery" in Sonoma County award. In 2009, Riverfront was a runner-up. But this time, the 2010 results have Riverfront again at the top of the gallery category. This is no small achievement. Sonoma County has many worthy galleries.



It is wonderfully gratifying to Riverfront's resident artists to be repeatedly recognized in this manner. It is an affirmation of our venue and of the works on offer. We are grateful to all who have supported Riverfront in these polls and through your visits to our gallery and your attendance at our show openings. We always look forward to seeing you!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR PUTTING US AT THE TOP REPEATEDLY!

REVIEW OF CURRENT SHOW

There is no doubt about it. Spring has arrived in all its glory, and the Spring Show at Riverfront Art Gallery is shimmering with light and color. “The Expression of Light” show of new landscape paintings by John Gowan makes you want to don your hiking boots and set off across the hills and ridges, searching for these scenes, as John does. “The Splendors of Spring” show of flower photography by Jerrie Jerné reminds us all of the beauty North Bay gardens are blessed with much of the year, but especially in Spring.

In total, the works of 20 artists are on exhibition. This is one of the most diverse shows Riverfront Art Gallery has presented. There is much to see from beautiful landscapes to thought-provoking works to highly individualized styles. If you haven’t seen this eye-pleasing show, come tip-toe through the tulips before the show ends May 16.

ARTISTRY INSIGHTS

Wet, Live, Surprising: Watercolor Painting

with Peg Conley, Marilee Ford, and Wendy G. Franklin

Three Riverfront painters who work in watercolor recently shared some thoughts about their approaches, techniques, and the intangibles of working in this expressive and versatile medium. They are Peg Conley, who paints primarily in watercolor, Marilee Ford, a gallery founder who has moved on to designing for a children’s company, and Wendy G. Franklin, who has shown mostly oil paintings in the gallery.

Paint From...

The three painters have slightly different approaches to painting in the field, from “live” subject matter, or using a photograph or other printed visual source. Wendy finds watercolors ideal for working in the field, especially when traveling. She notes, “I have taken watercolor painting in the French countryside, down the Colorado River, and on numerous rafting trips.”

Peg also prefers the actual as her subject: “I have found it easier to work from real life rather than photos. I need to see it in 3-D somehow to capture it on the page.”

Marilee often starts a watercolor painting in the field. “Typically, because watercolor dries quickly,” she says, “I work quickly and lay down the basics. I usually return to the studio to put the details in and pull the painting together.” But both Peg and Marilee point out that at times they also use photos as resource material.

Plan or Play?

Another characteristic of watercolor also determines how the painter actually creates a work. As Marilee notes, “One of the things that makes watercolor painting so daunting is that the medium is, by its very nature, fluid. That means that you only have control up to a point.” For this reason, Marilee says, “I need to plan my painting much more carefully than I might if I were painting with oil or acrylics.”



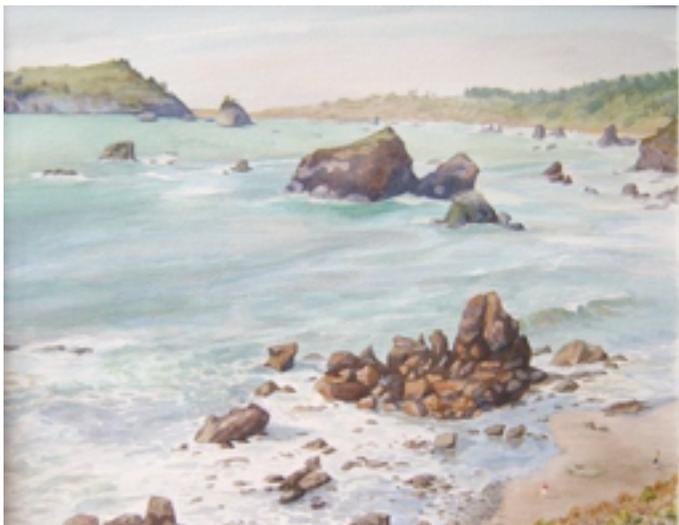
Leaving Skagway by Peg Conley

Peg likewise plans her paintings and often does a pencil sketch on the paper before she begins to paint. “Sketching in helps me ‘see’ the finished product as I work with the shapes and get an overall feeling for the painting.”

Wendy often combines a loose style with a more detailed, controlled way of working, “depending on what kind of scene I’m painting.” By wetting the

Continued on page 3.

paper and then using a wet brush to apply color, she gets the “wet-into-wet” effect, in which the paint flows on the damp paper, often unpredictably. Then she might use a dry brush to apply paint to dry paper to develop details in the painting.



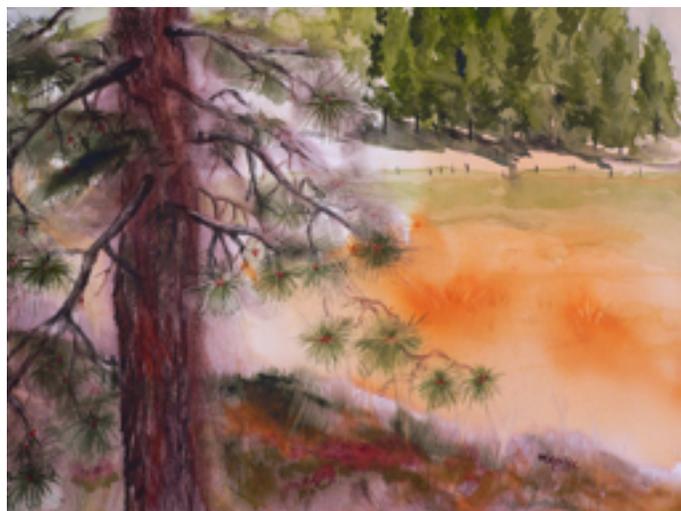
Luffenholz by Wendy G. Franklin

Whether planning and sketching first or just letting the paint flow, all three artists agree that watercolor involves some intangible elements too. Peg listens to music as she paints, and “I try to let my intuition come into play,” she adds. “When I do so, I’m often surprised at what can happen.”



Untitled floral by Peg Conley

Marilee works to bring the essence of her subject into each painting. “It’s important to me for my painting to look like something, but also to tap into the spirit of my subject. I’m really not content just to paint a rose; I want to paint the energy or soul of the rose also.”



Sierra Majesty by Marilee Ford

Tips and Teachers

The three painters have some tips to offer, too. Wendy suggests buying good-quality materials but only a few colors: “the primaries—blue, red, and yellow—and maybe burnt umber and sap green for mixing rich darks.” She adds, “Don’t overwork a watercolor painting; let the paint do its thing.”

Marilee likewise advises using quality materials and limiting the palette of colors in a painting to four or five. She also names local painters Susan Cornelis of Sebastopol and Birgit O’Connell of Pt. Reyes as among her favorite teachers.

Peg advises looking at other painters’ work, and simply painting. As she puts it, “Check out museums and galleries and use books for reference. Study the masters, including contemporary ones, and then just play.”

www.pegconley.com

www.marileeford.com

www.wendygfranklin.com

NEW TO THE GALLERY

Asmund Gjevik, photographer, photographic printmaker, and darkroom perfectionist, will be showing his black and white prints at the gallery. He is drawn to dramatic contrasts, which explains his fascination with black & white photography.

Asmund expresses it this way: "Abstracting a scene with black and white allowed me to think about these forms as composition, texture, contour, light and shadow. I continue to be intrigued by the way light plays with natural or manmade forms be they weathered wood, trees in snow, rocks on a beach, or the contour and texture of a woman's form."



www.agjevikphoto.com

NEW TO THE GALLERY

Photographer, Bill Hollister, will be exhibiting what he calls "Nature Paintings." While engaged in a career in the business world, he made time to explore the beauty of the natural world. This led to an interest in photography. His focus spans the gamut of nature subjects: landscapes (especially our local wine country), animals (especially birds), patterns, and macros.

Bill uses the term "Nature Painting" to describe his photographic images which begin as a straight photographs of some aspect of nature. He then applies a sequence of proprietary digital techniques to produce an image that has the appearance and feel of a painting."

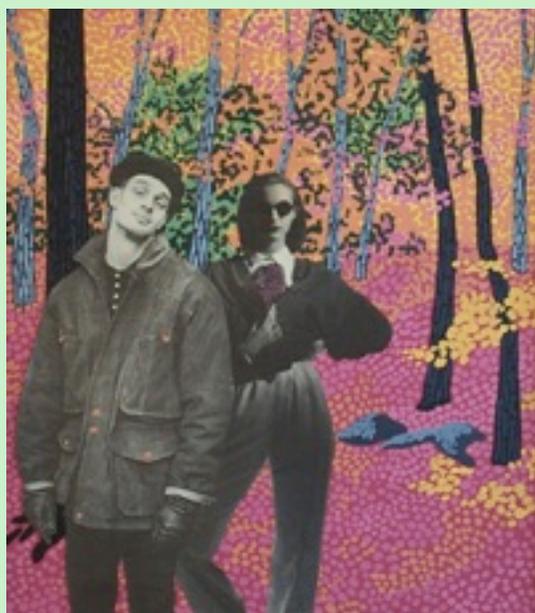


<http://naturedreams.ifp3.com>

NEW TO THE GALLERY

Abe Battat is another new member of Riverfront gallery, but Abe, a musician, is not the painter of the works you will see on our walls. Abe joined the gallery to present the work of his late wife, Karin Battat.

Karin's work was widely exhibited in the Bay Area over a 40-year period of artistic achievement. Karin drew upon the North Bay and urban lifestyles, as well as her travels, especially her love of



the Tuscan countryside, as inspiration for her artwork.

Riverfront will exhibit works from the last cycle of some 25 works Karin completed between 2000 and 2003. The group includes paintings and collages, very contemporary in style. Some collage works incorporate photography by Karin. Many have distinctive borders which set them apart from the usual approach and place them astraddle the art and design worlds.

MEMBER NEWS

Jeremy Joan Hewes Photography at Trione Vineyards & Winery 19550 Geyserville Avenue, Geyserville

Member artist Jeremy Joan Hewes (on sabbatical from the gallery until May 18th) is showing her photographs and prints at Trione Vineyards & Winery in Geyserville from April 1st through June 13th. This exhibit is associated with Art at the Source, a program of open studios in west Sonoma County during the first two weekends in June (5-6 and 12-13).

www.jeremyjoanhewes.com/

For more information about Trione Winery, visit their website:
www.trionewinery.com



*Vineyard After
Rainstorm*

MEMBER NEWS

Bill Pfeffer Paintings at Menlo Park 28th Annual Sidewalk Fine Arts Festival Santa Cruz Avenue at El Camino Real April 16 • 17 • 18

www.billpfeffer.com

Bill loves prowling around antique and second-hand shops to find old, discarded bits and pieces from yesteryear. He cleans them and decorates them with the same bright colors and bold strokes he uses in his regular paintings. He calls the pieces he has revived from the past his "Renewable Art." Bill will be showing his renewable art in Menlo Park.



A Moment In Time

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Lance Kuehne offers a series of workshops covering various aspects of photographic image-making. Two workshops are coming up:

~"Printing with an Inkjet Printer." The focus of this workshop is on converting the camera image into the best possible print. April 19th and 26th.

~"Photographing the Landscape" begins April 22nd, with 3 classes and 2 field sessions.

~Private photography lessons are available.

Lance will also be speaking at the Petaluma Camera Club on April 7th and at the Willits Photography Club on April 10th

For information on workshops, classes, or private lessons go to

www.lancekuehne.com/classes.html

RIVERFRONT ARTISTS AROUND TOWN

The gallery assists local businesses with their decor by providing artwork to grace their walls. Currently gallery members are at these venues, some with new shows being hung in March:

CUCHINA PARADISO RESTUARANT

DE SCHMIRE RESTAURANT

JSOLAR

PLANET BEACH

VIVA COCOLAT

**KEEP THOSE PEEPER'S PEEPIN' AND
WATCH FOR RIVERFRONT'S JURIED SHOW
"SHOWIN' ON THE RIVER"
CALL FOR ENTRIES IN MAY!**