



This issue:

Announcing:
"Showin' On
The River"

Featured Artists:
Mark Lifvendahl
Robert Pitanzo

Gallery News

Gallery Offerings
Acrylics
Art Prints
Infrared Photography
Mixed Media
Oils
Photography
Photomontage
PoMo Paintings
Mixed Media
Sumi-e Paintings
Watercolors

www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-7248

THE GALLERY'S NEW SHOW

Show: May 17 - July 11

Reception: May 22, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Art Walk: May 8

Reception 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Call for Entries: Showin' On The River Riverfront Art Gallery's Fine Art Juried Show

RIVERFRONT ART GALLERY PLANS JURIED ART SHOWS

Riverfront Art Gallery has initiated a program to help provide serious and aspiring North Bay Area artists and photographers with gallery experience. The gallery plans two juried events per year. One show will feature paintings and other two-dimensional genres except photography. The second show will feature photography and works derived from photography.

Accepted entries will show at the gallery for approximately two months during a regular gallery exhibition. These shows will not have a specific subject or theme, making them true "artist's choice" competitions limited only by what the artists themselves wish to present. Any image suitable for general public viewing will be considered. Riverfront is definitely looking forward to displaying the many forms of creativity that abound in our North Bay Area art community.

The inaugural "Showin' On The River" will kick off with jurying in early June. Paintings of all kinds, as well as mixed media, drawings, and printmaking may be submitted. Accepted artwork will be on view during the gallery's summer show, July 13 to September 12. The submission guidelines and entry form are on Riverfront's website: www.riverfrontartgallery.com So, if you are an artist, get out those canvases and drawing pads! The June 5th entry deadline is just around the calendar corner!

The photography "Showin' On The River" exhibition will be in January, 2011, with submissions due early in December, so all you photographers please stay tuned.



FEATURED ARTIST: MARK LIFVENDAHL



“In Full Bloom”

Abstracts....that marvelously creative and diverse category of artistic expression is where featured artist, Mark Lifvendahl, places his works.

Mark had no long exposure to art training, did no experimenting with landscapes or portraits. He simply picked up a paint brush and began applying colors to canvases in forms that are of his own imagining. What is astonishing is that Mark has only been painting for three years and yet has reached a level of artistry that already has people collecting multiple pieces of his work.



Tall Bouquet 22"x50"

“I started out doing completely abstract works. Over time the flowers began to appear. The first year, I developed a lot of the layered techniques you see in the background of some of the flower paintings. Backgrounds are often cracked or blended, streaked or dragged paint.”

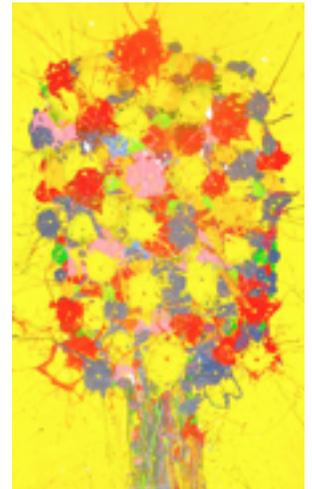
Mark appreciates Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. Those, he says, are what paved the way for what he is doing. “I would not say that I am directly influenced by any artist, but there are similarities between my works and the

works of Pollock and Warhol. I use a lot of splatter, and I am drawn to bright color.”

Abstracts are often suspected of representing some obscured meaning or concept. Mark disclaims any such basis. “My works are mostly about pleasing color and form. The colors and flowers are meant to uplift and inspire. I can’t say there is any kind of deeper meaning.”

Mark specifically points out *Spring Flowers 1* as an example of the power of color to affect ambience.

“This painting is all about bold happy, bright, uplifting color. The colors are meant to please, but so are the flowers. They have a bursting, exploding quality, and some of them almost look real. I hope this work has a bold, immediate impact on people who see it. I think this piece really brightens and cheers up any room it is in.”



Spring Flowers 1 48"x30"

Certainly form, line, color, and texture are mainstays of abstract art--the very elements that dominate in Mark’s whimsical, vibrant, high-energy pieces. As Kandinsky pointed out, color has strong emotional value, inviting the viewer’s personal emotional engagement in a way that is often not as possible with reality-based works. This emotional tone scale is where Mark’s works fall.

Another tie-in Mark’s work has with abstract tradition is that, whether titled or not, images often can be open to the *viewer’s* interpretation. What do you see? Flowers? A family portrait? One-eyed aliens? People in the park? The start of a marathon? Lollipops? The possibility of seeing any piece from different perspectives gives it a continuous freshness, vitality, and spontaneity that delight both the eye and the mind.



Family of Flowers 1
24"x20"

Come see “In Full Bloom” and be prepared to be delighted.

www.lifvendahl.net

Images at top: *Life 1* and *Life 2*

24"x24" each



FEATURED ARTIST: ROBERT PITONZO

“Celestial Impressionism”



Standing before a Robert Pitonzo painting, one is immediately drawn in by the sense of space and depth which, like the universe, appear to keep expanding. It is extraordinary. Vistas stretch through levels above and below, past planets and galaxies. Time and distance collapse and reform.



Shikinah 60 x 48

Rob does not copy the world we know; he creates a unique world within each canvas--a world that offers a great sense of place yet has no identifiable location.

There is more than visual depth here; an implied exploration of personal inner space is a strong element in Rob's work, an aspect

that is clear in *Shikinah*. The title is a Hebrew word meaning dwelling or presence, particularly of the divine spirit.

At this point in history, where in too many places in the world lines are drawn in the turf and even religions seem to battle, Rob's "Celestial Impressionism" series reminds us that we are each a universe where peace and harmony, where shikinah perhaps, is waiting to become established.

Rob comments that "The Impressionist and surrealist painters used their artistry to capture, as well as chronicle, their 'moment in time'. They portrayed, in images of paint and stone their time, their conscious thinking, and their spirituality. In keeping with that tradition, I hope to bring the observer into the present 'moment in time'".

Toward that goal, Rob creates paintings that "explore the cosmic mysteries of this life, from the vast expanses of the galaxy to the tiny life spark deep within a leaf." He says, "By incorporating universal spiritual symbols, cosmic images, and prismatic color, I draw the observer within to experience a myriad of multi-layered spectrums of reality." While working on this grand scale, he nevertheless is attuned to reality, which shows in his

ability to "interpret such visual splendor as a magnificent velvet sunset or the emerald sheen of a living blade of grass."

Unlike much surrealist work, *The Dream* freely offers us its symbolism. It is a powerful piece which does have an identifiable location. We are in a golden, glowing land with towering spires native dwellers would likely have designated as sacred places--as shikinah. Is that pale buffalo the ghost of a way of life? Do those galloping horses churning up turmoil out of the darkness, like those of the apocalypse, suggest impending destruction of a people? Is a



The Dream 48 x 60

similar portent in the eruption-like clouds that spread above and in the dark universes that hover within sight, like the "manifest destiny" doctrine about to overtake that golden world?

But it may be one relatively small detail that is the most potent message-bearing element of the image--the lightning strike. Could it be signaling that even in overwhelming darkness, there are flashes of light, flashes of hope, still a possibility of shikinah? On a broader scale, is this only a "prophetic" piece informed by hindsight or is it a symbolic message for today? *The Dream* is thought-provoking and deep. As a work of art, it is a stunning piece, whether one studies it for interpretation or not.

Given his skills, interests, and artistic exploration, it is little surprise that Robert Pitonzo's art spans impressionism, expressionism, and surrealism, and that his works have been shown and collected across the nation. But you may be surprised to learn that, if a still life is your cup of tea, Rob has been known to do those as well.

www.vistapointe.net

Top left: *Monolith Mall*

Top right: *China Bowl*

GUEST ARTIST

MARTIN BAUMAN

Martin Bauman calls his watercolors and inks “remnants of a trail through the landscape of pigment, water, and brushes.” He explains, “For many years I have been taking a path following the movement of color, shape and line. The image remains as a “footprint,” as evidence of the continuum after we have moved on. Once past, it is doubtful that the watercolor can be repeated. These representations of the images on the fringe of experience can temporarily give us the impression that we are not alone. The pictures are part of a dialogue with one’s inner world touched by an outer landscape.



Untitled

www.soundimago.com

What continues, though, is the sense that what is truly important remains invisible to the eye.”

SELECTING ART AS A GIFT

People are sometimes a bit nervous about selecting artwork for someone else, and yet art can be a very impressive and much appreciated gift. Smaller works make the perfect filler for a spot above a decorative table or desk, in a dining niche, in the entry way, or along a hall.

May 9 is Mother’s Day, and June 20 is Father’s Day. Both provide an opportunity for wrapping up something that will give long-lasting pleasure. But how do you decide what kind of art to look for?

Step #1: think where in your parents’ home a piece might be well displayed for their enjoyment. How many small nooks or spaces might hold an image? What empty spot could use some brightening?

Step #2: pay real attention to the art and decorative work they already have. Do you see a consistent style, subject, or color? If so, then you have a major clue as to what they might enjoy. Or do they delight in surprises, so that something unusual might tickle their fancy?

Small art prints and quality photographs are often no more expensive than dinner for two at a nice restaurant, so we encourage you to take Step #3: come to Riverfront Art Gallery to complete your “research” into art as a gift for your mother and father--or for anyone else on your year’s gift list.

Riverfront always gives a 10% courtesy discount during Art Walk receptions. As luck would have it, the May Art Walk is Saturday, the 8th. The Art Walk reception is from 4:00 to 8:00.

Not a last-minute shopper? Then come anytime. You might find a real bargain in “Bargain Alley,” the official name for the area next to the gallery’s back door. This is the place to pick up excellent “steals” when artists become short of storage space and need a bit of inventory reduction. The art in this area is always discounted at least 40%.

You might even find the perfect “surprise” for yourself!

MEMBER NEWS

**Robert D. McFarland’s
Photography at
Spring Lake Village
5555 Montgomery Dr.
May through June**



East African Crane

www.photographyofrobertdmcfarland.com

**Sharon Feissel’s Photomontages
at Nectar Wine Lounge
270 Lorton Avenue, Burlingame, CA
April 17 through June 28**



Palouse Rhythms

www.images-and-interpretations.com

REMEMBER

MOTHER’S DAY MAY 9

FATHER’S DAY JUNE 20