



NOVEMBER

Third Anniversary Celebration & Raffle

Featured Artists:

Lance Kuehne
Karen Spratt
Cathy Thomas

Call for Artists:

“Showin’ on the River”
Photography Show

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Gallery Offerings

Acrylics
Art Prints
Infrared Photography
Mixed Media
Oils
Pastels
Photography
Photomontage
Watercolors

www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

THE GALLERY’S NEW SHOW

November 10 - January 9

Show Reception & Art Walk: Nov 13 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Happy 3rd Anniversary, Riverfront!

Time does fly by with astonishing rapidity. It hardly seems possible that three years have passed since that warm autumn evening when Riverfront Art Gallery, its owners, and member artists invited Petaluma to join in opening a new art gallery. It was a heady experience, full of anticipation and determination. Little did anyone suspect the turn in the economic climate that lay just ahead--a circumstance not easy for a start-up endeavor to withstand. Yet the gallery is still here, still offering quality original art, still adding to the breadth and depth of what Petalumans find and enjoy in their hometown.

Owner Lance Kuehne says that on this anniversary, he will be celebrating the fact that, “For three years, the gallery has been able to offer a beautiful venue for showcasing the work of the finest local fine art photographers and painters, making the gallery a valuable support for the local art community and a cultural resource for the local viewing community.”

Co-owner Jerrie Jerné Morago expresses similar feelings, “In the three years since we opened Riverfront Art Gallery, we have shown works from over 50 local artists, and have made a statement in our local art community. We have donated works of art to our local nonprofits, and have supported many ventures in our downtown community.”

Lance points out proudly that the gallery’s reputation extends beyond Petaluma, proven by the fact that, “We have been voted one of the best art galleries in Sonoma County every year since our founding. This accomplishment is due to the energies of more than just Jerrie and myself. It is due to the efforts of our member artists as well.”

Jerrie adds, “We thank Petaluma and all of Sonoma County for naming us your Best Art Gallery. We look forward to showcasing new artists and to continuing to excite our fans. Again, we all thank you for supporting us, and we look forward to the future.”

Jerrie, Lance, and all the gallery members would love to have you join us for the third anniversary reception. In addition to our great food and music, we are holding a drawing for selected pieces of art from our artists. No charge for entering, just fill out the card, but you do need to be present to win!

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Hours: 11- 6, Wed., Thurs., Sun.; 11-8 Fri. & Sat. Closed Mon. & Tues.

FEATURED ARTISTS: KAREN SPRATT & CATHY THOMAS

“INK,” A SHOW CELEBRATING BODY ART AS ART

Karen Spratt, painter, and Cathy Thomas, photographer, are combining their talents in an exhibition entitled “Ink.” They are recognizing tattoos as an interesting and diverse type of art. As Cathy describes it, “A form of expression...colorful, bizarre, splendid, fascinating, remarkable, attention-grabbing, stimulating, gripping, impressive, thought-provoking, breathtaking, inspiring...which is what art is all about!”

Tattoos have been used by diverse cultures over the centuries and were often traditionally marks of position or indicated social status. Today, tattooing in the United States expands across all socioeconomic groups. According to a 2006 Pew survey, 40 percent of Americans between the ages of 26 and 40 have been tattooed.

After researching the history of tattoos and speaking to people with tattoos, Cathy says, “Making your mark through declaration and adornment appear to

be what our current, mainstream, tattoo cultural activity is all about. Tattoos make statements about religion, crime, rebellion and war. They can show group identity, as with the many women who now bear the pink ribbon tattoo as a mark of beating breast cancer. Tattoos are done to honor loved ones. And they are used simply as adornment. They express emotion and creativity.” Cathy's artwork will feature photographs of tattoos and their owners.



Elbow Ink: Photograph by Cathy Thomas, shows a symbolic representation of the continuum of life and an honoring of wife—all reflective of adornment.

Secrets Revealed

oil on canvas

Karen Spratt



Viewing tattoos from a painter's perspective, Karen says, “I enjoy tattoos. I think using the body shape as a canvas is fascinating. It requires a lot of skill to successfully apply an image to the ever-changing contours and size of the body. I have the opposite challenge when I try to paint a round body on a flat canvas...then make the tattoos look like they had been applied to the body.”

Asked what she likes about tattoo art, Karen replies, “My artwork is often described as illustrative and surrealistic. That may be why I'm drawn to tattoos. As with my paintings, tattoos often tell a story.”

Asked if she has a tattoo, Karen says she likes change too much to commit to a permanent bit of body art. “I prefer putting them on canvas, so I can change my mind.”



Venus, A True Nature's Child

oil on canvas

Karen Spratt

Chris Rainier, a photographer who travels the globe in search of tattoos, was Ansel Adams's last assistant in the early 1980s, until Adams's death in 1984. Like his mentor, Rainier is primarily a black-and-white photographer and is captivated by the

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FEATURED ARTIST: LANCE KUEHNE

Flipping through the Napa Sonoma 2011 Wine Country Calendar sends images of wine country flashing before your eyes, scenes celebrating the rural flavor of life in Sonoma and Napa counties. These evocative images of the seasons, each representing the month in which it was actually photographed, are currently on view in Lance Kuehne's Featured Artist show at Riverfront.

As an award-winning photographer, Lance has a special feeling for the local landscape, often with a touch of nostalgia to his images. Many have the quality of an Andrew Wyeth painting, such as the very Wyeth-like *Old Farm Building* and *Hillside Barns* (images not in the calendar).



Old Farm Building



Hillside Barns

Lance focuses on some small nugget of scenery plucked from the greater expanse spreading before him. He takes that bit, often something we give barely a glance in passing, and reveals its beauty, which we ourselves recognize once he presents it to us within the picture frame.

Henri Cartier-Bresson is famous for capturing the “decisive moment” in his photographs. His image of a man in mid-air, jumping a puddle, is a classic. Although Cartier-Bresson was an urban and documentary photographer, in a sense his “decisive moment” concept is applicable to landscape photography. True, we think of *catching* an action, *catching* something in motion, while a path in the landscape just *is* and a barn and fence just *sit there*. Yet the light and its moods are transitory, creating moments so special and so fleeting that, if we aren't quick to recognize them and skilled in capturing them, those moments are lost. It is not the action but the ephemerality of light and tone that Lance catches repeatedly.

Consider *Dry Creek Homestead* and *Last Colors*. Late light on those particular afternoons was like a paintbrush splashing rich golden hues across autumn trees and vineyards. The scene at other times or seasons would not offer such visual poetry. The late sun sinks with surprising rapidity, so the “decisive moment” is fleeting and must be caught before it vanishes, even though the subject sits perfectly still. The same fleeting visual delicacy is true of the wintry beauty of *Winter White*, offering viewers the cool quiet of a vineyard in its season of rest.

This is Lance's third calendar, but the first dedicated exclusively to the Wine Country. It is available throughout the Bay Area at bookstores and other outlets. Barnes & Noble stocks it and offers it online, as does Amazon.com. It is available on Lance's website and at Riverfront Art Gallery where Lance is co-owner.

www.lancekuehne.com



Dry Creek Homestead



Last Colors



Winter White

"Ink", continued from page 2

topography of the body. He says, "The blank skin is merely a canvas for a story. Tattoos express an indelible identity. They say, 'This is who I am and what I have done.'"



Meagan's Pansy: Reflects adornment, memoir of a grandmother, and personal creativity as an artist and a student of visual communications.

Cathy Thomas

For more information on these artists:
www.karenspratt.com
<<http://www.cathythomas-fineart.net>>

Call for Entries:
Showin' On
The River
Riverfront Art Gallery's
Juried Photography Show
Entry deadline: Sat., Dec. 11

Hey, Photographers! Go to
www.riverfrontartgallery.com
 Click on Call for Artists to
 download photography show entry
 guidelines for "Showin' On The River,"
 Riverfront's first open juried photography
 show. Accepted entries will be in the
 gallery January 12 through March 6.

You're Invited!

*What: Riverfront Art Gallery's
 3rd Anniversary Celebration*

When: November 13, 5:00 - 9:00

Where: 132 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Anniversary, continued from page 1

The reception runs from 5:00 to 9:00 on Saturday, Nov. 13. Mid evening we will be joined by Chris Samson, guitar, and Barbara Arhon, fiddle, and Steve Della Maggiora, accordion, from Los Gu'achis (back by popular request). The group specializes in early California music, helping to preserve this cultural and musical art form.

Come Celebrate With Us!



Los Gu'achis



Riverfront Art Gallery

Opening night, October, 2007

Photograph by gallery member, Gus Feissel