



MAY, 2012

“Best of the North Bay”

Call for Entries:
“Showin’ On The River!”
Fine Art Show

Featured Artists:
Martin Dawson &
Jeffrey Williams

Member News

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Gallery Offerings:
Acrylics
Mixed Media
Oils
Photography
Photomontage
Watercolors
Sculpture

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

THE GALLERY'S NEW SHOW

The Late Spring Show dates: **May 9 - July 8**
Show Reception & Art Walk: **Saturday, May 12, 5:00 - 9:00 PM**
Musical interludes by recording artist Nahara, guitar & jazz vocals.

THANK YOU, CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS!

Here you see it, the new “Best of the North Bay!” Bohemian 2012 decal Riverfront Art Gallery has just received. That is due to your vote and your ongoing support of the gallery. We have a decal for every year since we opened! We couldn’t be more pleased or feel more gratitude. Needless to say, we will continue our efforts to provide quality local art at reasonable prices. Thank you for your devotion!



Call for Entries for the Third Annual: “Showin’ On The River!”

Riverfront Art Gallery’s
Fine Art Juried Show

Entry deadline: **May 26**
Exhibition dates: **July 11-September 9, 2012**
Reception: **July 14, 5:00-9:00**

The juried show gives artists a chance to show work for about two months in Riverfront Art Gallery without becoming a member. The competition is open to two-dimensional works of all kinds (except photography or photography-derived works which is a separate show). No theme. Any subject suitable for presentation to the general public is considered. Painting, drawing, pastels, mixed media, pen and ink, etc. are all welcome. We encourage creativity.

Guidelines at www.riverfrontartgallery.com.

FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER MARTIN DAWSON

Martin Dawson is an artist in transition. He has done advertising for the BBC, Honda, EMI, Nestlé, and others. He's done publicity pictures of the famous, including Prime Minister Harold Wilson, the Duchess of Kent, and Princess Diana. Nature Company sold his black and white scenic images. All this was over a 35-year career as a professional photographer and black-and-white fine art printer. What, you might be wondering, is left for him to transition to?

Himself, with his own *personal vision* of what he wants his fine art photography to show and to express. We all have trouble at times pinpointing exactly what we want. Increasingly, what Martin wants *isn't* just the usual endpoint--nice photographs--but photography as the basis for further developing "fine art" renditions of his images.

Martin explains, "My fine art style is not purely photographic. It is a more graphic interpretation, so I describe myself as a photographic artist working with a 'limited color palette'. This style developed over time and is the look I prefer, particularly for art pieces to hang on the wall. Being an expert Photoshop artist is a prerequisite to achieving this amount of control in image making."

Martin points out that "The China and Yorkshire images give more of a black-and-white, hand-tinted impression, with the China images having an even more graphic feel than the Yorkshire images. For example, the graphic treatment of *Hutongs Street* enhances the environment, while the limited color focuses the eye. In the *Yorkshire Stone Barn* image the enhanced stonework really LOOKS like stone, while the background was given a pencil drawing feel which works together with the pencil edges of the stonework."



*China
Hutongs
Street*



*Yorkshire
Stone
Barn*

He continues, "The West Coast images are more purely photographic, but I am evolving my style and some images are more clearly 'limited color' than others. I am aiming at having only one or two colors in each image. The *Pelican Lineup* image is mostly pure photographic, but the subject is strengthened a great deal by simplifying the background and neutralizing most of the colors.



Pelican Lineup

"To a large degree the subject dictates how far the 'style' can be pushed. For example, the gritty texture used on Yorkshire stone simply destroys a tranquil waterscape. This means each image, to some degree, has a custom style within the original concept of graphic definition and a limited color palette. It is a labor of love as there is no one formula--you cannot just push a button.

"I intend moving even more toward 'limited color' as I want to blur the line between a photographic look and an illustrative look. Many people cannot figure out if some of my recent images are a photograph or an illustration. I am pleased with that."

www.martindawson.com/photography

FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER JEFFREY T. WILLIAMS

An art student in his youth, Jeffrey Williams was also an accomplished climber, good enough to scale the challenging routes of Half Dome and El Capitan. As he ascended, Jeffrey pulled out his Kodak Instamatic to photograph the views as a permanent record of his climbs and to capture subjects for his paintings. The subject of his Featured Artist Show is the views from his climbs up Half Dome in Yosemite.



View down from 1,400 feet.



View down from 1,700 feet.

Half Dome isn't high by Sierra Nevada standards, yet at 8,836 feet (4,737 feet above the valley floor) the view isn't all that takes your breath away! The back arc of the dome can have 2,000 hikers on a summer weekend, taking the 8-mile "Cables Route" and clinging to Park Service cables to get them up and over the bulge. But for a special few, like Jeffrey, nothing will do but a hand-over-fist ascent right up more than 2000 ft of the vertical face of that famous granite monolith.

A bit of climber's jargon helps us understand Jeffrey's explanation of that 3-day endeavor. The photo below shows his route, with "25 pitches." A pitch is the length of the safety rope--about 200 feet. The first climber goes as far as the rope allows, then anchors himself to the rock to help the next climber or to clean equipment, etc. The northwest route up Half Dome takes 25 rope lengths to complete.



The 2000' "Regular Northwest Route" shown in red.

Jeffrey describes the climb event this way: "Day 1 was the hike, gaining 3000 feet in elevation, from Camp Curry on the valley floor to the base of the climb route where we spent the night. The goal of day 2 was to reach Big Sandy Ledge at pitch 17. The ledge was large enough for camping overnight. The goal of day 3 was to reach the summit at pitch 25 early in the afternoon and to walk down the backside of Half Dome to the valley floor." What an astonishingly simple description of an exceedingly difficult and dangerous undertaking!

Now, decades later, through his paintings Jeffrey relives his days of dangling off the face of Half Dome or El Capitan. His paintings also show those of us who prefer our views to be from ground level just how strikingly different the world looks from that towering perspective.

As a painter, Jeffrey was familiar with "horizon-line issues" in landscape painting. Yet the downward view during a climb has no horizon line, no sky. That realization gave Jeffrey an entirely new take on the conventional landscape and a style in presenting his version of the landscape that can only be described as *unique*.

The characteristics of the rock, its defiles, its outcroppings, the treetops below, are painted faithfully, so these paintings are as realistic as it is possible to be. Yet the effect is highly impressionistic, with features simultaneously familiar and not exactly familiar. The unusual perspective turns them into very effective abstracts. Stare at these paintings for a moment, keeping your position as climber in mind, and you will experience vicariously the landscape as Jeffrey saw it.

www.jeffreytwilliams.com

BEYOND THE GALLERY

Riverfront Artists at Petaluma Businesses

At Cucina Paradiso: paintings by Karen Spratt, landscape photography by Lance Kuehne, and photography from around the world by Jerrie Jerné

At JSolar: photomontages by Sharon Feissel

At Planet Beach: photopaintings by Jerrie Jerné

NEXT ISSUE!

GALLERY CO-OWNER LANCE KUEHNE

LAUNCHES NEW ENDEAVOR

CALIFORNIA PHOTO ADVENTURES

Workshops and Photo Tours

Contact Lance at lance@lancekuehne.com



Wheat Field

Martin Dawson

REMEMBER MAMA!

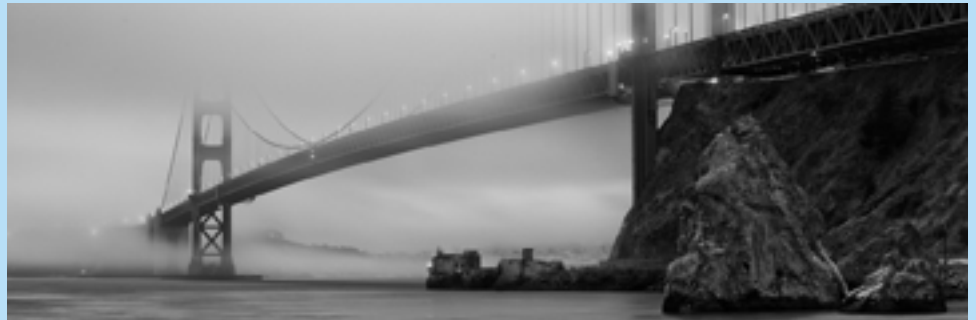
MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 13

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Craig and Frank on their awards!

At the annual "Day on the Green at the Village," an Earth-Day-related event in Montgomery Village in Santa Rosa, Riverfront's Craig Melville took the coveted Best of Show prize for the body of work on display. Craig's forte is black and white photography. His favorite subject is the Golden Gate Bridge.



Horseshoe Bay

by Craig Melville



Several Riverfront artists also show work at Towers Gallery, in Cloverdale. In the recent "Seasons" show, each season had its own section of the gallery. Visitors were asked to vote for their favorite "Seasons" artist, an honor garnered by our own Frank Oravetz. At right is Frank with his award and, at left, his winning image, *Snow Table*.



The current show at Towers is "Cloverdale, Where the Vineyards Meet the Redwoods." Friday, Saturday, and Sundays through June 24. Catch Frank Oravetz, Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz, Cathy Thomas, Jerrie Jerné, and other Riverfront artists at Towers.