



AUGUST, 2012

**2012 "SHOWIN' ON THE RIVER!"
JURIED FINE ART SHOW**

**Featuring Local Artists
Working In:
oils, acrylics, watercolors,
pastels, mixed media, and
illustrations done with
graphite, colored pencils,
and pen and ink, plus
hooked-rug wall hangings.**

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**Gallery Offerings:
Paintings
Mixed Media
Photography
Photomontage
Sculpture**

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

**THE GALLERY'S CURRENT SHOW
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9**

Art Walk Reception: Saturday, August 11, 4:00 - 8:00 PM

A COMFORTABLE FEELING, LIKE OLD SHOES AND SLIPPERS

As the second half of the "Showin' On The River!" Fine Art Show gets under way, we want this issue of RAG Sheet to pay tribute to those participating artists who have previously shown their work at the gallery and are with us once again for this show. Some were accepted into prior "Showin' On The River!" events, some are former members of Riverfront, and three of them have done both. It is a distinct pleasure and a comfortable feeling to see their work on the gallery walls again.

Let us start our tribute with Muriel Sutchter Knapp, who is not only a faithful in "Showin' On The River!" competitions, but who is also a great gallery supporter, having attended many show openings over the years, as well as dropping by with her visitors. Muriel is definitely a "comfortable old shoe" around the gallery.

After being a young student at the Chicago Institute of Art, Muriel went on to get her BFA in Industrial Design from the University of Illinois. Finding the art-related fields were less open to women at that time, Muriel spent her life teaching. Upon retirement, she was finally able to devote herself to her art.

Muriel's works have been rendered in many mediums, but her current focus is on "combining fabric, paint, and objects" into her still life and portrait paintings, because "they add depth and texture to my canvases," she says, "giving my oils more visual punch." Her works, especially her portraits, often have a decidedly whimsical bent, as with *Portrait With a Black Hat*.

Portrait With a Black Hat

mixed media

Muriel Sutchter Knapp



Although not the only artist with multiple works in the show, Barbara Bally is unusual in that her pieces differ greatly and reveal her versatility. Shown here is her lovely, impressionistic rural landscape, *Remembering Then*. Like home in the distance inviting your quick return, this piece has emotions painted into it. Her other work, not pictured, is her textural abstract, *Silent Sounds*, executed in the less-frequent combination of oil and acrylic.



Remembering Then Barbara Bally

Penny Popken's unique style makes her work readily-identifiable. Part of their charm is the energy and vibrancy she achieves by using complementary colors, such as the yellow and violet in *Adobe Road Shadows*. Stylized trees and bushes also mark a work as hers. Mainly a plein air painter, Penny says, "I work to capture the mood of the moment and the quality of light." Although she works onsite, Penny adapts what she sees to her own style as she has so cheerfully done in *Adobe Road Shadows*.



Adobe Road Shadows Penny Popken

Explaining her approach, Carole Barlas says, "The paintings I do are an acknowledgement of the idea that we are constantly constructing our realities. Sometimes our vision of reality is clear and precise; other times we see things in flux, and sometimes both at the same time. I use color in a temporal manner, influenced by the sense of the moment and, to the degree that I notice, the interplay of light and dark. I am interested in moving to my edge and then pushing a bit. Doing so maintains an approach that is fresh and interesting to me as an artist."



Old Barns acrylic Carole Barlas



Iris n Cypress oil Marcy Silveira

The subtle beauty of Marcy Silveira's *Iris n Cypress* is due to her limited palette--a range of blues into violet and oranges into yellow--to define land, sea, and sky, as well as coloring the foreground irises. We are invited through the flowers to the tree and toward the sea beyond. The tree is Bodega Head's lone cypress tree, which Marcy paints annually from a different vantage point, each time different too in terms of light, mood, and the connection she feels. Marcy says, "In my paintings, I aim for moments of excitement but with some areas of restfulness."

Hope Valley lies in the High Sierra. It is not uncommon to see an artist with easel or drawing pad in the valleys up there. One of them may well be Muriel Goodfield. Muriel says, "I love to go out and paint what I see rather than copy from a photo. I enjoy feeling the vibrations of the land and animals and whatever is around me. To be able to paint and be a plein air artist is a sublime experience." The pastels Muriel chose for rendering Hope Valley gives the piece its dreamy, poetic quality.



Hope Valley
pastel
Muriel E. Goodfield

On this page, we really slide into those comfy old slippers, with three artists who each were with Riverfront as members for an extended time: Jan Lee, Peggy Sebera, and Henry White.



Summer Hay Henry White

Henry White is a master at capturing the iconic landscapes of Sonoma County with its patchwork of color and texture. Often Henry presents a landscape we recognize instantly, because we see it daily. But, donning boots and backpack, Henry also captures the places we haven't been, expanding our visual horizons in the process.

At the heart of Peggy Sebera's landscapes is Mother Earth herself, that richly-giving foundation that comforts and nourishes us and that blesses Sonoma County with ongoing beauty no matter what the season. Peggy says, "I love the earth and all its colors, shadows, and shapes." This statement rings true with every one of Peggy's Sonoma-centered "portraits" of the land.



At Home in the Vineyard 3

Peggy Sebera

Jan Lee loves any means of creating an image, especially florals and landscapes such as the sunny coast, *At Sea Ranch*. She works in water color, oil, acrylic, pencil, and ink. Of her work Jan says, "I tend to use vivid colors and love the fact that I am interested in so much variety. The main thing is to paint what inspires me at the moment. My greatest success has come when I've done exactly that."



At Sea Ranch

acrylic

Jan Lee

And finally, as a gallery member, Sharon Feissel normally shows photography and photomontage. This is her first painting exhibition. "I am delighted!" she says. Working from her photograph of her husband's shirt hanging on the closet door of an old Philadelphia house, Sharon has sought to capture the luminance of the white shirt in the light from the window. (See image on page 4.)

MEMBER NEWS



The Shirt
acrylic
Sharon Feissel

**JERRIE JERNÉ, FRANK ORAVETZ,
STEPHANIE HAMILTON-ORAVETZ,
CATHY THOMAS** at
Tower Gallery's *First Anniversary Exhibition*
in Cloverdale through September 30.



Going with the Flow Frank Oravetz

**"SHOWIN' ON THE RIVER!" PARTICIPANTS
FEATURED IN THE JULY, 2012, ISSUE:**

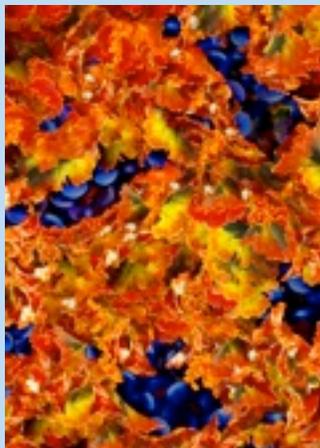
If you missed it, please check out the July issue
which featured the following artists:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Leona Dadian Akers | Mara Farnworth |
| Else Gonella | Nina Gorbach |
| Paul Guido | Thomas Hughes |
| Kathryn Kelsey | David Kingwill |
| Kath Root | Kelly Sooter |
| Henry Violin | Emma Webber |
| Mylette Welch | Char Wood |

GUS & SHARON FEISSEL at
Fall Fine Arts Festival At The Village
Montgomery Village Shopping Center
Santa Rosa, August 18 & 19, 11:00 to 4:00



Autumn Aspens
Gus Feissel



Abundance
Sharon Feissel

STEPHANIE HAMILTON-ORAVETZ

at Sebastopol
Center for the Arts
"Face Me"
Exhibition through
Sept. 1st



*Evelyn Loses
Her Self III,
Late Stage
Alzheimers*

AND

at Healdsburg
Center for the Arts
"Go Figure" Show
Aug 2nd - 27th
Reception Aug 11
5:00-8:00



*Spirit of
Winged
Victory*

Stephanie
Hamilton-
Oravetz