



SEPTEMBER, 2012

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION!

CELEBRATION RAFFLE

FEATURED ARTISTS  
Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz  
Christine Kierstead

MEMBER NEWS

\* \*

Gallery Offerings:  
Paintings  
Mixed Media  
Photography  
Photomontage  
Sculpture  
Birdhouses

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THE GALLERY'S NEW SHOW

SEPTEMBER 12 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4

Show Reception: Saturday, Sept. 15, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

*It's a party!*  
*in Black and White*

Dress in all black,  
or all white  
or go really crazy  
and wear both!

We'll give a prize to the most creative dresser.

It's our 5th anniversary  
and we're going to celebrate.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012 5-9pm

There will be lots of good food and good music with "Half-Bad Neighbor"

And of course there will be lots of great artwork of new and returning artists.

We are having a raffle to benefit the Art Without Labels gallery on Kentucky. Tickets are \$2 each or \$10 for 6.

They can be purchased at the Riverfront Art Gallery or at Art Without Labels.

[See Raffle rules](#) and pages 2 and 5.

## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BLACK AND WHITE CELEBRATION & RAFFLE

Yes, there will be black and white balloons and cake! The gallery itself will be decked out in black and white. And, as the planning committee says, "You can wear black, you can wear white, or you can go *really crazy* and wear both black *and* white (or the color of your choice, of course)!" A prize goes to the best black and white dress. And we'll have a celebratory raffle with dozens of prizes.

What is all the fuss about? It is much ado about something: Riverfront Art Gallery's fifth anniversary! Gallery owners, Lance Kuehne and Jerrie Jerné, opened the gallery doors in September, 2007, hardly suspecting that the country would slide into a recession. Yet, the gallery is still in its spot on Petaluma Boulevard, anticipating the years to come.

Lance comments, "When Jerrie and I started this endeavor, we wanted to establish a space to showcase local art in a great setting, to create the gallery of our dreams. The strategy was 'build it, and they will come.' I never thought Riverfront would be voted by Bohemian readers *Best Art Gallery in Sonoma County* during every year of our existence. This gallery has become quite a community resource. Jerrie and I are proud of what the members of this gallery have accomplished."

Jerrie adds, "Looking back on the last five years, I feel we have accomplished our mission to create a place where local artists can rent a space, exhibit their work, and become part a community of artists. I am proud to say we have brought over 200 artists to exhibit in Petaluma. We have shown hundreds of styles of art."

As Jerrie points out, "All our artists are from this region, confirming the high quality of artistic expression the gallery is able to draw upon locally. We thank our artists for helping us create one of Sonoma County's best galleries, and this year we became Petaluma's favorite. Thank you, Petaluma!"

In addition to the general celebration with the tables

of nibbles and lively music by Half Bad Neighbor, the gallery will hold a Celebration Raffle. A dozen artists have donated artwork for the raffle. Prizes range from a painting of your pet to the possibility of picking your own prize from an artist's print bin. The list of artists and their donated works is on page 5. Some businesses are donating surprises: J Solar Jewelry, Viva Cocolat!, Shunzi, and Petaluma Pie. By reception time, there may be more!

Raffle proceeds will benefit the nonprofit *Art Without Labels (A.W.O.L.)* on Kentucky St. in Petaluma. AWOL works with people with mental and physical challenges, providing them with art classes, work space, and a gallery to show their art. Riverfront is pleased to support community art opportunities in this unusual context. *A.W.O.L.* is also providing artwork from their gallery for the occasion.

Raffle benefits the nonprofit organization *Art Without Labels (A.W.O.L.)* in Petaluma



A single ticket costs just \$2, six tickets for \$10. Tickets are on sale at A.W.O.L. and Riverfront until the reception on September 15. Raffle rules are:  
-Winners will be randomly picked on September 15, 2012, between 5:00 and 9:00.  
-Winners need not be present to win, but must have the matching ticket.  
-Winners who are not present will be notified by email or phone.  
-Prizes must be claimed by September 20, 2012.  
-Participants will be added to our email list, but can unsubscribe at any time. (We do not share your information with anyone.)

The artists of Riverfront Art Gallery invite the community to share this anniversary celebration with us! See you on the 15th!

### MEMBER NEWS

#### GUS & SHARON FEISSEL

Healdsburg Center for the Arts'  
*Healdsburg Arts Festival*  
in the town square,  
Sept. 22nd  
10:00 to 5:00

#### KAREN SPRATT

Petaluma Arts Assoc.'s  
*55th Annual Art in the Park*  
in Walnut Park  
Petaluma Blvd. and D St.  
Sept. 8 and 9, 10:00 to 5:00

#### STEPHANIE HAMILTON-ORAVETZ & FRANK ORAVETZ

Healdsburg Center for the Arts  
*"All Things Orange" Show*  
Through September 29  
Reception September 8, 5:00 to 8:00

**FEATURED ARTIST: CHRISTINE KIERSTEAD**

***Going, Going, Gone***

Christine Kierstead never fails to infuse her paintings with imagination, wit, and whimsy backed up by strong, energetic brush strokes adding to the vitality and liveliness of each work. She is a wonderfully interesting artist with a capacity for ranging wide over the possibilities of fine art subject matter. As proof, we give you an overview of her Featured Artist show, entitled *Going, Going, Gone*.

Talking about her concept Christine says, "This show is about those things that have been recently replaced by technology, the things that we kinda liked, sorta miss, or are glad are gone. It's for those of us who know what 'White Out' is; those that remember a real person on the other end of the line when we called the bank. Yeah, we're grateful to have a phone in our pocket for it's convenience, but we're painfully aware of it's ability to take us away from the moment.

We used to complain when the phone rang at dinnertime. Now it beeps us at all hours and we, in true Pavlovian fashion, have to see immediately who is calling or what tweet we've received."



*Red Rotary*

Christine Kierstead

Christine's red rotary phone even takes us back to cold war days with the red phone hot line between Washington and Moscow established in 1963 after the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The ring of a real phone isn't all Christine misses. She continues reminiscing, "There was free TV with limited channels, and we liked it that way. The turntable still rocks it in night clubs with DJs but the days of pouring over our record collection with friends has passed."



*Turntable*

Christine Kierstead

Having a love of the well-chosen word, Christine's thoughts turn to what has happened with the print world. "This show is for those of us who enjoy mentally sifting through the alphabet in order to find the word we're looking for or just thumbing through the dictionary for pure pleasure. We find something childishly special about the newspaper on our front stoop in the morning. We can't imagine life without a bookstore to browse or the pleasure of receiving a hand written letter or any tangible mail at all."



*Books in a Window*

Christine Kierstead

In summary, Christine says, "I for one am sad to see all that I am representing in my work here in this show gone, on it's way out, or forgotten by most."

This show offers a trip down Nostalgia Lane, to recall how it was back when..... It depicts items newly interred (or soon to be) in our cultural cemetery. So come quickly to take what is perhaps a last fond glance before these once-precious things disappear forever.

**FEATURED ARTIST: STEPHANIE HAMILTON-ORAVETZ**

***Once Upon a Time: Vintage Portraits Tell Their Stories***

Photography is the foundation skill of Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz, a skill she augments with her computer-based artistry as she uses montage techniques to achieve the sensibilities she wishes to create in her work.

As Stephanie travels, she is fascinated by faces she finds in old sculpture, stained glass, painting, and on decorative items. Describing the inspiration for her featured show, Stephanie explains, "Wandering the lovely Alsatian town of Colmar, France, so quaint it could have come straight out of a fairytale, I came across a little antique shop, its window filled with dolls, faces, memories, history.

Later in Switzerland in a Zermatt church I saw the most exquisite faces in the stained glass windows--so beautiful they took my breath away! Photographing them, I wondered about their stories and the story of the artists who gave them life. I found myself recalling the antique shop in Colmar, sweetly named 'il était une fois' or "Once Upon a Time." It occurred to me that the shop was not just filled with vintage things, it was filled with vintage stories. So this is a show about portraits, stories, time, and the art of photography.

To accomplish this transformation from present to past, Stephanie photographs stained fabric, torn paper, canvas, paint, window reflections--anything that might work--and layers these images together with her "characters" for the final effect. "I can't paint, she says, "so this is my only avenue to express what I feel about what I photograph."

In summary, she says, "The characters that speak to me on my travels come home in my camera, and we meet again in my studio as they emerge on my computer screen. There I can look into their eyes, I can remember where we met, and I can think about their stories."



*The Sheep Herder*  
Partenkirchen,  
Bavaria, Germany



*Rosa* Zermatt images



*The Lady in Blue Silk*

"The characters in this 'Vintage Series' live in today's noisy, busy world, but most were not created recently. Several have seen centuries of life. In each there was something emotional that attracted me, transcending the boundaries of time and location. I wanted to remove these vintage figures from the visual noise of their contemporary time as well as from the specifics of their original space to set them free to speak their timeless stories. To help them do that, my goal is to transform my photographs to look more like paintings than present-day photographs."

*The Traveler*  
From old fresco  
in a church in  
Bolzano, Italy.



*The Kind Warrior*  
One of possibly 100  
paintings of soldiers  
displayed floor to ceiling in  
the Hermitage Museum,  
St. Petersburg, Russia.

She invites you to, "Step back in time and space with me to visit with these characters from the past. I hope you will find that perhaps one of them is as compelling to you as he or she was to me. If that is the case, you might find yourself musing about their story. You might begin, "Once Upon a Time....."

# Raffle Prizes

Surprises from Viva Cocolat, J Solar Jewelry, Shunzi, and Petaluma Pie.

*Art With Out Labels* will donate artwork from their gallery.

As more prizes come in, the website will be updated. Check often!

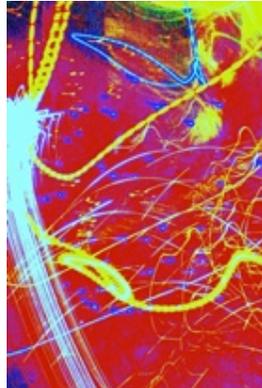
A dozen prizes have been donated by Riverfront members. Sample images are shown for those artists giving winners a choice.



Frank Oravetz  
Any matted print  
from his gallery bin.



Nirlap Bettenhouser  
"Cherry Picker"  
oil on canvas 20x24



Cathy Thomas  
Matted photograph  
"Lightening" 4x6



Jeffrey Williams  
"1500 Feet, Moby Dick Route,  
El Capitan, Yosemite" oil 12x23



Jerrie Jerné  
Framed photo painting  
"La Bella" 18x24



Karen Spratt  
Any matted print  
from her gallery bin.



Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz  
Any matted print  
from her gallery bin.



Christine Kierstead  
will paint an 8x10 portrait  
of your pet.



Jim Coda  
Any matted print  
from his gallery bin.



John Hanses  
Any 14" matted image  
(except "Pond").



Lance Kuehne  
Matted photograph  
"Vibrance" 16x20



Sharon Feissel  
Matted photomontage  
"Alexander Valley Gentility" 16x20