

FEBRUARY, 2014

**SPECIAL EVENT:
PORTRAIT PAINTING
DEMONSTRATION &
BALLET FUNDRAISER**

**CURRENT FEATURED
ARTIST SHOW
Polly Podolsky
Craig Melville**

**NEW MEMBER
Bob Benson**

MEMBER NEWS

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**Gallery Offerings:
Paintings
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**THE GALLERY'S WINTER SHOW
THROUGH MARCH 2**

**FEBRUARY ART WALK SPECIAL EVENT!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

**SPECIAL EVENT: POLLY PODOLSKY
TO PAINT PORTRAIT AT FEBRUARY ART WALK**

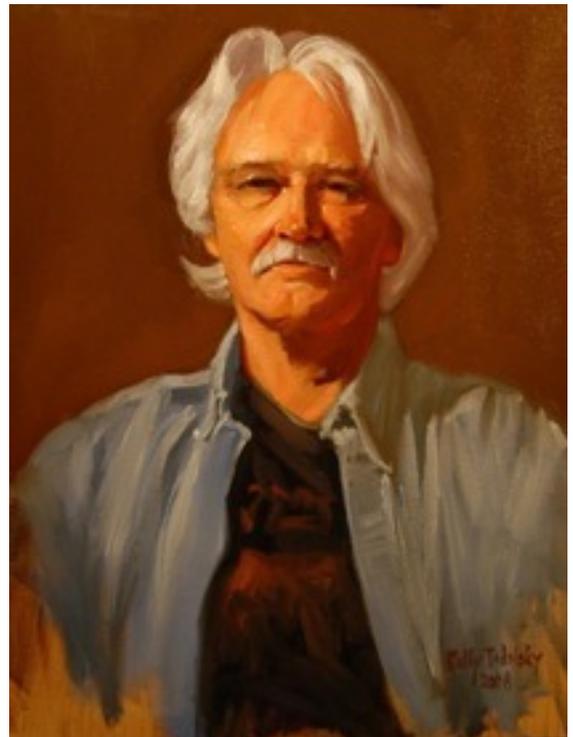
Exciting news! Riverfront's own Polly Podolsky, a master painter and painting instructor, will give a demonstration of portrait painting at art walk on Saturday, February 8, during the Art Walk reception, 5:00 to 8:00.

Adept at traditional oil painting skills and as a highly-regarded painter for decades, Polly will bring her easel and paints to begin working on a portrait. You can watch this process for as long as you like. It will be fascinating to see the piece take shape. For a sample of her portrait work, see *Big Ed*, on this page.

In addition, if it has ever crossed your mind that you would love to have a cherished photograph turned into a painting, bring the photo with you. Polly will be happy to talk with you about it and, should you wish, she will even give you an on-the-spot quote for rendering that precious image into an oil painting that you can see and appreciate daily.

Of course, if you would prefer to have a portrait done the old-fashioned way, Polly is equally happy to do a portrait from live sittings. While you mull over the possibilities, come meet Polly in person.

Riverfront is pleased to be able to bring to the community this very special art event!



CURRENT FEATURED SHOWS WITH POLLY PODOLSKY & CRAIG MELVILLE

Superb skills and emotion-stirring subjects are principle qualities for true fine art paintings. Those qualities are apparent in Polly Podolsky's nostalgic show, *Somewhere In Time*, drawn from photographs of actual people and places as they were in the era between the close of the 1800s and the 1940s.

Polly's paintings are nostalgic records of the conditions and circumstances of the time, but each image has been selected for its emotional value and the story that can be gleaned from its visual clues. Polly has sifted through old photos at flea markets, estate sales, etc., always looking for the story rather than those stiff photos with everyone in a row, squinting while saying *cheese*. "Those photos have no spirit," Polly points out, "and spirit is absolutely essential to my interest as an artist, as well as to drawing a strong emotional response from the viewer."

Polly uses the same techniques as the Old Masters, yielding paintings that look like Rembrandt himself might have been her painting instructor. Polly teaches painting at the Petaluma Art Center and gives private instruction at her studio.

In a diametrically-opposed direction, Craig Melville has come up with a surprising show that explores the interior, emotional landscape. His black and white photography, generally dealing with the local landscape or with a favorite subject, the Golden Gate Bridge, is now being used to suggest human emotions and responses to life's circumstances.

Craig says of his show, *Uncomfortable Darkness*, "The series blurs the lines between the mental space and physical world in a nearly cinematic fashion. Each photo tells a fraction of a story never to be fully told. These are not self portraits as a reflection of myself but as an innuendo to the viewer to put themselves in place of the faceless figure to see what happens."

Here landscape ceases to be his subject and becomes background to the human circumstance and mood evoked by the image. Craig continues, "Using nature as the background and shadow as the mask, I have created my most profound work yet. This series marks a significant turning point in my creative style. Adding the human element has allowed concepts never imaginable with just what the landscape provides."



Top left:
Polly Podolsky
*Egbert Was All
About The Sizzle*



Top right:
Craig Melville
It's Only Me



Bottom left:
Polly Podolsky
Altogether Now



Bottom right:
Craig Melville
Roads Traveled

NEW MEMBER: PAINTER ROBERT BENSON

Riverfront Art Gallery is pleased to present new gallery member Robert Benson. Bob spent 25 years in Colorado as an award-winning art director, graphic designer, illustrator, and painter before moving to Sonoma County in 2001. Here he has continued his fine art career, becoming a steady presence on the local art scene.



Left:
Keeping Watch

Below:
Lasseter Barn

Bob has built an impressive body of work centered around Northern California landscapes, as well as creating still life pieces. His work has been shown throughout the area and is in many local collections, including the permanent collection at Chateau St. Jean where he was curator of their gallery space for six years. Bob also had work selected for publication in *Artistic Touch #5*, a hardcover book distributed by Northlight Books nationwide.



Right:
Complement



Below:
Spring Lake Sunday



Being the consummate painter that he is, Bob is at home with oils, acrylics, and watercolors. However, his Featured Show, entitled *Recent Works*, will highlight his lovely watercolors. The emphasis for this show is certainly on Sonoma County, with images that could easily turn your solid walls into “windows” opening onto the beauty of local scenery.

Bob says his new works reflect an expanded range of subject matter and an even greater skill level, due to his three years of study with master watercolorist Dick Cole. “Dick helped me to loosen up more and to see the whole picture, rather than focusing on rendering individual parts without pulling the entire piece together. He’s also introduced me to new tools and techniques.” Clearly Bob is a life-long learner, believing that, by exposure to other ideas, one can always grow personally, not just at the beginning but throughout one’s career.

Please don’t miss Bob’s debut exhibition at Riverfront. We promise you will enjoy it!

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION AT ART WALK ON FEBRUARY 8TH TO BENEFIT THE PETALUMA CITY BALLET

Not only will the February Art Walk feature a portrait painting demonstration by Polly Podolsky and live music for your enjoyment, it will also include a raffle and silent auction. Several Riverfront Art Gallery members have donated work for this event which gives Petalumans the opportunity to support The Petaluma City Ballet while possibly going home with a new piece of art. The Silent Auction will be set up by January 27th to give people time to place their bids before the February 8th event. Riverfront participated in this event last year as well, raising \$900 for the ballet. Come in and help us match--no, help us surpass--that goal.

MEMBER NEWS

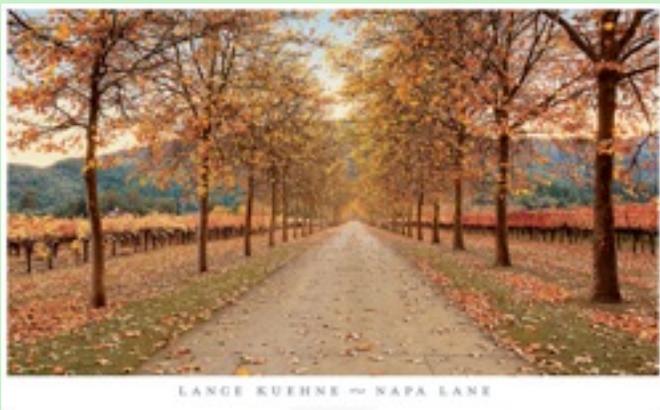
EDITIONS LIMITED PUBLISHES LANCE KUEHNE IMAGES

This month art print publishers Editions Limited will introduce two of Lance Kuehne's images in poster form. The company deals with the interior design trade, so the initial offering will be to that industry. Subsequently, the posters will become generally available through the Editions Limited website. At that point Lance will also have them at the gallery. Something for Lance's many fans to anticipate!

Asked whether there was a story behind how this development came about, Lance replied, "The owner of Editions Limited saw my work many years ago at various art fairs around the Bay Area. She would always say, 'We've got to publish your work!'. Then a few years would pass, she would see my work again, and say the same thing again."

"Out of the blue, last fall, I received a call from the Art Director of Editions Limited and had a conference call with the owner, art director, production people, etc. They asked if they could publish two of my pictures as posters. They also wanted to make slight alterations in cropping and color to better suit the interior design market. I had no objection to what they wanted to do with these two particular images."

"I really like the resulting poster they designed. They took my photographs and slightly modified them in an esthetically pleasing way. I sort of feel like Bob Dylan, writing a strong basic song and having someone create a hit from it by interpreting that song in a new way."



Gus & Sharon Feissel at Redwood Cafe Through March 10 8240 Old Redwood Hwy. in Cotati, CA

Sharon's show, *Photomontage in Red, Black & White*, features eighteen photomontage works, some whose origins are identifiable, some that have become quite abstract. Gus's show, *Tribute to California in All Seasons*, consists of nine images showing California at its seasonal best.



Frank Oravetz in "Vessels" juried show at Sebastopol Center for the Arts 282 S. High Street, Sebastopol, CA Tues. through Fri. 10:00 - 4:00, Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 Through February 14

*Life is
Complicated*

Frank
Oravetz

