



MAY, 2015

FEATURED ARTISTS

Jeff G. Allen

Lance Kuehne

ENTRY DEADLINE

SHOWIN' ON THE RIVER!

JURIED FINE ART SHOW

* *

Gallery Offerings:

Paintings

Mixed Media

Photography

Photomontage

Sculpture

Woodcraft

Sculptural Lamps

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

**THE GALLERY'S LATE SPRING SHOW
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 , THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 5**

SHOW OPENING & ART WALK RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Musical Interludes by Half Bad Neighbor

MY GOODNESS, IT'S MAY!

This winter was extra warm and extremely stingy in its scant offering of nourishing rain. January, usually the peak rainy month, gave us 0.00 inches! We longed for those proverbial "April showers that bring the flowers that bloom in May." Hmmm. Can't say that wish was granted.

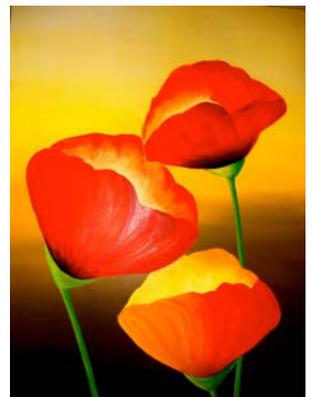
Now it's May, smack in the middle of Spring. Although not in the full glory of the best years, the flowers do persist, determined to hang on until times improve. For example, the bright yellow glow of mustard has been lovely amid the barren vineyards. You did run out with your camera for some local-color shots, didn't you?

Local color is something that prevails at Riverfront Art Gallery, regardless of the weather and the climate. The full glory of the outdoors, the marvelous diversity of nature blooms forth on gallery walls. That will be especially true of the featured artists' works in the Late Spring Show. Jeff G. Allen presents diverse landscapes in *The Nature of My Journey*, while Lance Kuehne gives us a *Wine Country Retrospective*. Among gallery members and our Invitational Artists, nature is also an ongoing source of inspiration and images.

Come and celebrate May (and Mom) at the opening reception for Jeff and Lance's featured shows on Saturday, May 9, from 5:00 to 9:00.

Popular *Half Bad Neighbor* will again delight us with their musicianship.

Conversation, by Invitational Artist, Laura Lyons



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Remember Mom!

May 10th

Rose by Gallery Member, Karen Spratt

FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER JEFF G. ALLEN
The Nature of My Journey

Jeff G. Allen's photography has quite a following in the gallery. His featured show, *The Nature of My Journey*, consists basically of landscapes in the full tonal range from black and white through limited-palette to full-color images.

In his title, Jeff draws a parallel between his journey through life and his journeys with camera in hand, through a clever play on *Nature*, meaning both the *essence* of his life experience and the *subject* of his photography.

Jeff comments, "The journeys of our lives are more than just a passage through time. As we travel this path from birth to our inevitable death, we also meander to and fro through this physical world in which we experience our existence. That experience then is framed by our own mind, based upon our personal preferences and upon our interactions with our surroundings. Through these, we decide what it is that we believe about the meaning and purpose of our journey and what adds value to our lives.

"As I've been ferried along by the inevitable flowing of time, I've found that natural beauty inspires me, and I am able to see that this beauty is not based merely on appearance but, like all expressions of nature, begins its own journey from deep within. Beauty resides within the very nature of nature.

"This collection of photographs comes from a few of my journeys through the natural world in which the primary goal of the journey was the experience rather than the capturing of those moments in pictures. I find these journeys to be the most rewarding, being that my focus then is on the experience of nature, rather than on my preconceptions of what nature should be. It is a journey of listening and discovery rather than a journey of expectation."

Jeff's commentary on his images brings out parallels between life's broader journey and specific travels, parallels such as preparedness for what may come, willingness to put in whatever effort is required, sometimes putting relationships first without entirely giving up the self, and, as tourists in life, recognizing opportunities that can be so fleeting--and, of course, the great parallel: the broader the experience of both culture and nature (and thus the more extensive the journey), the greater the discovery and satisfaction.



Jeff explains, "Backpacking in the wilderness, such as to *Lake Aloha* in the Sierra Nevada (above), requires personally carrying everything required for your survival and comfort. This means careful consideration of every ounce of equipment you choose to bring. Because of this, each piece of camera gear means a sacrifice in some other area, most probably in the effort that will be required by each and every step taken. With five days of food and equipment, the added weight of quality camera gear can significantly increase your burden."



Of his Lake Powell, Arizona, trip Jeff says, "Enjoying a relaxing excursion on a pontoon boat with a group of friends means sacrifices when it comes to picture taking. This is a trip for relaxation and doing next to nothing most of the time. Add to this the great distances and time required to travel about, getting off somewhere alone to focus on a photograph is a challenge. In the spirit of relaxation and just letting go, I just keep an artistic eye open with the camera somewhere close and simply take what the journey brings me, not worrying about where I might capture some "ultimate" expression of any potential scene."

Of an extensive trip to New Zealand, Jeff comments, "My wife and I are just tourists, experiencing the many treats this land has to offer. No opportunity to

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FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER LANCE KUEHNE
Wine Country Retrospective

Photographer Lance Kuehne's featured show is *Wine Country Retrospective*. "Retrospective" lends a suggestion of nostalgia. For viewers it is a chance to again see their favorite wine country images from prior shows, plus a newer piece or two.

Lance comments, "As a native Californian, I grew up in the largest wine growing region in the United States and have been enamored of wine country since I first saw it as a 16-year-old. I have watched the transition over the years as Americans became more sophisticated in their tastes, going from simply "red" or "white" wine to ordering Sauvignon Blanc, Zinfandel, Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, etc.

"Vineyards in and of themselves are not exotic to me. I think my photographic work on this subject is more powerful because of that fact. A vineyard has to be more than just a vineyard to inspire me to photograph it. I've been photographing vineyards for the past decade, making the wine country one of my largest bodies of work.

"I have become familiar with the rhythm of winemaking, from "bud break" to "the crush". Over the years, I have gotten a good sense of the best times to photograph wine country throughout the year under various weather conditions. I am deeply aware of when the climate for a particular year is "good" or "bad" for the harvest. Sometimes it is particularly difficult to be inspired when the weather yields negative effects, as with our current drought.

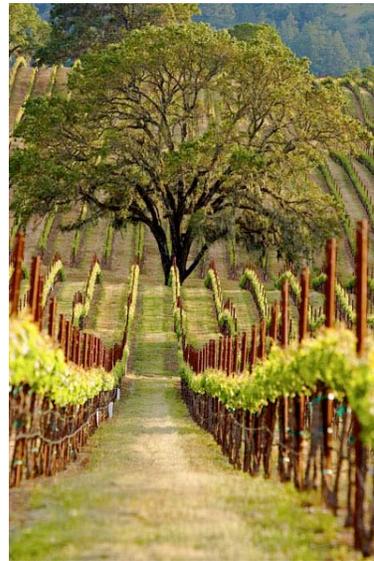
My favorite times to photograph vineyards are in the fall and late winter for the fall color and the mustard flowers respectively. I always lead workshops at these times, since the odds of getting a great photograph are much greater. Several of the images in this show are from workshops, such as *Carneros Windmill* (below).



"A key factor in dramatic vineyard photographs is good lighting, generally speaking strong sidelight from late in the day, as in *Dry Creek Homestead* exhibiting both effective light and fall colors (top right).



"You never know when an image is going to be a blockbuster. Here is the story behind two images that turned out to be extremely popular. *Alexander*



Valley (left) is my best-selling photograph of all time. It was taken in late April in Sonoma County, not usually the best time to capture dramatic photographs of vineyards. However, it is an example of a photograph that was created because of constraints. Many of my best images were created this way.

"I was forced to photograph the subject in a way that wouldn't have been my first choice of composition or focus. I wanted to de-emphasize the plastic green ties used in vineyards at this time of year (vintners never seem to think of us photographers). Since I don't extensively "Photoshop" my pictures, the best (and quickest) way for me to make the ties disappear somewhat was to make them blurry by being out-of-focus. This resulted in my focusing exclusively on the background oak tree, thus making the entire background in focus, which strongly draws you into the depths of the picture.

"I first printed this photograph to enter the Sonoma County Harvest Fair photo competition in Santa Rosa that fall (It won 2nd place). Then, since the photograph was already printed, I decided to show it in my booth at my next art fair. I sold a large framed print of it on the first day. The next art fair, the same

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Jeff G. Allen, continued from page 2

scout prime locations, returning later for optimal light or weather. A four day backpack trip however, while it presents the usual challenges, also provides a chance to slow down and get in sync with the natural landscape. This view of Mt. Ngauruhoe (aka “Mt Doom” of *Lord of the Rings* fame) was taken on our first day out. Unfortunately, about midway through the second day, the clouds descended over the mountain for the remainder of our trek circumnavigating this still active volcano (below).



On a trip to Turkey to celebrate a wedding, six of us steal away afterward on a bus ride half way across the country from Istanbul to the little town of Göreme where we stay in a cave hotel, take a hot-air balloon ride and explore the area on foot. Out of the six of us, my wife is the only one fluent in Turkish and so

we must stay mostly together and rely on her translations to keep us from getting lost. This is an experience of the synchronicity of culture in harmony with nature where ancient and modern dwellings were carved from the unique solid rock formations. I finally find a free morning where I rise before sunrise and explore alone some of these formations.”

Do come to enjoy Jeff’s beautiful images and discern the life lessons hidden in his work.

Lance Kuehne, continued from page 3

thing happened, and it has happened continuously to the present day. This is one of those photographs that is more powerful when it is printed at larger and larger sizes. One woman told me it gave her vertigo--she bought it!



Last Colors (above) is another picture that I had no idea would be so popular. It was taken in a spot that I like to photograph on a regular basis in the Carneros Region of wine country near the Napa-Sonoma border on the Napa side. The Carneros is the only local wine region that spans both counties.

I initially thought the colors were too garish. A year later as I was preparing to publish a new calendar, I decided to try to print the picture again. With my new printer, I finally got a result I really liked. The picture then went on to become one of my best-selling pictures for the next several years. It is currently my 3rd all-time best-selling picture. The only other relatively recent picture that is in my Top 10 in terms of sales is “Mixed Colors” (not shown), taken in the exact same spot a year later.”

Lance concludes, “This show represents my best work on this subject over the past 12 years. I hope viewers will enjoy this show as much as I have enjoyed creating these images.”

Pastels, Acrylics, Oils, Pen & Ink, Mixed Media

ENTRY DEADLINE: MAY 23!

“Showin’ On The River!” 

**Riverfront Art Gallery’s 6th Annual
Juried Fine Art Show**

Exhibition Dates:

July 8th – September 6th

Download Guidelines & Entry Form at

www.riverfrontartgallery.com

click on Call for Entries