



JANUARY, 2016

CALL FOR ENTRIES
"SHOWIN' ON THE RIVER!"
JURIED PHOTOGRAPHY
SHOW

FEATURED ARTIST
Karen Spratt

NEW MEMBERS
Angela Hunkler
Wendie Worthen

PHOTOGRAPHY
WORKSHOPS

**

GALLERY OFFERINGS:

Paintings
Mixed Media
Photography
Sculpture
Woodcraft
Sculptural Lamps

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(707) 775-4278

THE GALLERY'S WINTER SHOW
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 6

SHOW OPENING & ART WALK RECEPTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 5:00 - 9:00 PM
Musical Interludes by Half Bad Neighbor

Call for Entries
"Showin' On The River!"
Annual Juried Photography Show
Entry Deadline Jan. 23

Hey, all you camera buffs! It's time to send in your entries for the upcoming juried photography show. The entry deadline is Saturday, January 23rd by 7:00 p.m. Each year, roughly 40 photographers and photographic artists have work accepted into this annual show.

This is an opportunity even for people who have not shown their work previously. Riverfront looks for the quality of the image, whether taken by a professional or an amateur. As long as the image is presentable for the general public, any subject is acceptable. Photomontage and other works derived from photography are also acceptable. However, the initial photographs and all alterations must be the work of the entrant.

The accepted entries will hang on gallery walls for approximately two months during the Summer Show, July 6 through September 4.

For submission guidelines and the entry form, please go to the gallery website: www.riverfrontartgallery.com. At the bottom of the lefthand menu, click on Call for Entries which will take you to the juried show page. Click on the Juried Photography Show option.

THE WINTER SHOW'S FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER KAREN SPRATT

BICYCLES AND BIRDS

Seemingly puzzled by her own creativity, Karen Spratt says of her show, *Bicycles and Birds*, "I don't have a clear reason in my head as to why I started painting birds or bicycles...I just did. Everything in the show will have either a bicycle, a bird, or both in it. I've been working on the show for at least six months, although there will be some previous pieces included as well, since birds and bicycles appeared in a few of my paintings before I started consciously painting them. There will also be some reworked paintings. *What Came First?* is one of those. I'm finding that if I keep a painting long enough, I will want to work on it again." So there you have it, a show that has evolved over time, you might say, unplanned in a way and yet quite focused.



Some inspiration undoubtedly comes from feeding birds in the backyard, since Karen and her husband, Steve, enjoy watching them. She says, "We've taken a particular liking to crows, because they're so smart. The hummingbird feeder is right by our kitchen window, so we get an intimate look at them.



"I've admired paintings of crows by other people and just decided to try some myself. Then, or course, other birds wanted to show up in the paintings."

Some of this new show is the result of an experimental approach Karen tried. "A year ago I decided to attempt to paint faster. I gave myself assignments with time limits, usually three hours. It's a good exercise for me. I've produced a few presentable paintings in this manner. And I'm learning that I know more than I thought I did about painting. The birds are a good subject for this kind of exercise. When one paints realistically from life or photographs, the trick is to filter the details. Birds have a lot of little details, but they can be well depicted in paint with only a few details."

As to bicycles as subjects, that may be a bit harder to explain. Karen comments, "I don't ride bicycles anymore. I loved to ride my bicycle when I was a kid. But the last time I did it, a few years ago, I felt quite unsteady. I like the architecture of cycles: uni, bi, and tri. The combination of circles and straight lines is fun. It's a challenge to get the elliptical shape of the wheels correct, considering perspective and point of view."

The bicycles take more time simply because of the difficulty of getting the wheels right. But once you

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Top left:
Crow Bar

Left: *What
Came First?*

Right: *Bike
Guard*

NEW MEMBERS

PAINTER ANGELA HUNKLER

Although Angela Hunkler does work in oils, acrylics, and watercolors, her main focus is stick and ink drawings. Angela has been involved with art to some degree throughout her life. She attributes her initial inspiration to a 4th grade teacher who told her she could draw her own lines and fill the spaces as she wished.

Calligraphy became a new focus during 11 years in a Benedictine convent in North Dakota. That influence can still be seen through the inks Angela sometimes employs. Once out of the convent, she finished a bachelors degree in art at Minot State University. She says, "This meant I too could play with color as my students did, while I was teaching for five years in elementary school." When she came to California, Angela continued her art education at Studio One in Oakland.

While spending 26 years working in administration at UC Berkeley, art remained her "inner light." Angela says she prefers Otto Dix, Leonard Baskin, and Kathe Kollowitz as guides. Dorcas Moulton, Mark Lightfoot, and Pam Lanza have been solid guides as well on what she calls her "constantly changing journey." She comments, "I paint purely from my inner world, and I'm constantly drawing from the world around me." She comments that her brush, stick, and ink, along with mixed media, instructs her next painting.

In her debut show at Riverfront, Angela is showing a series of completely spontaneous abstract works combining watercolors and inks, such as *Garden Gate* (below).



PHOTOGRAPHER WENDIE WORTHEN

Wendie Worthen became hooked on art, when at age 7 she had a painting in the children's exhibition at the De Young Museum. Eventually she become an art major with an emphasis in photography. She owned Horizon Photography Studio in Petaluma in the 1980s, specializing in weddings, portraits and antique photograph restoration.

Accomplished in black and white and experimental darkroom work, Wendie has now switched to digital photography, where she can develop her color images as well--and without the harmful chemicals. She says, "For me, the creativity of double exposures, multiple negatives, solarization, and other darkroom techniques is the same whether it is accomplished in a darkroom or on a computer."

Wendie's says her influences have been J.H. Lartigue for his humor, Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham for their wonderful tones in black and white, Man Ray's surrealistic images, and Jerry Ulesmann's double exposure and multiple negative darkroom work, foreshadowing the digital photomontage style that Wendie herself embraces, such as in the double image *Tucson Sunset* (below).

Of her current approach, Wendie says, "My work is considered to be *photomontage*. I like putting more than one photograph together with interesting layers of texture and color. I like heavy textures, scratches, and grunge borders. I think it is a wonderful look. I enjoy the creative process and generally see the finished photograph in my mind before I start, and I work backwards, trying to figure out what I need to do to create what I have envisioned."



Karen Spratt Show: *Bicycles And Birds*, continued.

have the ellipses, it only take a few lines to become a bicycle. I took lots of pictures of bicycles, but so far, when I paint them, I build my own. *Bike Guard* and *Shadow of a Bicycle* started as three-hour assignments, but I admit to working on both of them much longer than the time limit.”

Karen is a very popular painter, whose artwork always finds admirers. This featured show will be no exception. Do come to enjoy this delightful show!



Shadow Of A Bicycle

Karen Spratt

MUSIC APPRECIATION: HALF BAD NEIGHBOR

At the opening reception for the Winter Show on January 9, melodies and rhythms will draw people toward the performance area at the back of the gallery. There they will find *Half Bad Neighbor*, with Bill Vestal and Scott Henry creating musical artistry.

They identify themselves as a psychedelic folk duo playing a mix of original compositions and “barely recognizable covers.” Bill, the group’s songwriter and singer, is a former frontman for the East Bay punk band *Naked Lady Wrestlers*. Scott does backup on vocals and fills in with just the right touch of electric guitar.

Asked about the group’s name, they chuckle. “We are half of Petaluma’s reckless garage band *Bad Neighbor*, so the choice of a name was obvious.”

Riverfront very much appreciates having *Half Bad Neighbor* at the gallery once again.

LANCE KUEHNE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Lance Kuehne is starting 2016 with a full schedule for January. Lectures, outings, and workshops are each limited to a few participants.

For details on the lectures, outing, and weekend workshop and to register go to his website: lancekuehne.com and click on Workshops. The lectures on Jan 3 and 4 and Open Studio are at Lance’s studio, 401 7th St., Petaluma.

Jan 9: Open Studio, 11:30 to 2:30, Free
Jan 16-24: Weeklong Workshop in Death Valley & Eastern Sierra, \$475

Feb 2: Let’s Talk About Gear, 7-9 pm, \$10
Feb 13: Open Studio, 11:30 to 2:30, Free
Feb 20: Winter Mustard in Wine Country, \$99
Feb 29: Printing: From File to Fine Art Print, \$199



Half Bad Neighbor: Bill Vestal, left, and Scott Henry, right.