



SEPTEMBER 2016

RIVERFRONT'S 9TH  
ANNIVERSARY!

FEATURED ARTISTS:  
Georgianne Fastaia  
Gus Feissel

POETRY WALK

\* \*

GALLERY OFFERINGS:

Paintings  
Mixed Media  
Photography  
Jewelry  
Pottery  
Sculpture  
Sculptural Lamps  
Woodcraft

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**THE GALLERY'S EARLY FALL SHOW  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

**SHOW OPENING AND ART WALK RECEPTION  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 5:00 - 9:00 PM  
Musical Interludes By Michael Hartman**

*You Are Invited! Save The Date!  
Riverfront's 9th Anniversary!*

It hardly seems possible. Nine years! Mid-September, 2007!

After years of dreaming, planning, crunching numbers, searching for a venue, searching for artists, then buying equipment, installing a lighting system and a hanging system, constructing display panels, painting the gallery, and getting the sign on the window, Riverfront co-owners Jerrie Jerné and Lance Kuehne scheduled a soft opening for September 16.

The first sale came while artists were still in the process of hanging the debut show. That was exhilarating! Little could anyone know, on those first warm September days, that a chill would fall upon the economy just as the gallery was taking its first tentative steps into the always challenging art world.

That chill made it unusually difficult. Those first artists were very involved in and dedicated to Riverfront, but little by little they bowed out, leaving empty space. Adaptability is part of creativity, so Riverfront Art Gallery adapted, initiating juried shows and ways of showing work in the gallery that did not involve membership or contributing to the gallery's operations. Somehow through it all, the bills got paid.

That survival, that tenacity, the sheer will not to give in or give up, is part of the proud history of Riverfront Art Gallery. Another part is the way the gallery has made it possible for so many talented area artists to present their works to the public. There is no scarcity of creativity here. Riverfront continues to be amazed by the unusual techniques, the numerous approaches, the variety of subject matter, and the quality of the art.

Our deep appreciation to all the artists who have helped make Riverfront a valued fixture on Petaluma Boulevard. We salute all of you!

## FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER GEORGIANNE FASTAIA

### Featured Show: *Togetherness*

Georgianne Fastaia is an artist who has become secure in her own recognizable style, which she terms “the distressed aesthetic.” She explains her approach. “I cover each canvas with layers of paint. Later I pour Murphy’s oil soap onto the canvas which I tilt to create drips. The soap, used to clean brushes, was a surprising discovery. It eats away layers of paint in what I call ‘lifts.’ So I actively damage and then rebuild the surface, revealing underlying ‘ghosts’ of imagery, color, and texture that give each painting a sense of ‘history.’

“My paintings seek to express the tension between chaos and order, between control of one’s medium and knowing when to let go. I strive to affirm a more authentic concept of beauty, while making paintings that evoke mystery. The process is completely unpredictable and requires me to take a fearless leap of faith. Giving up control forces me to stay lighthearted and adaptable to the painting’s evolution, while staying sensitive to the moments of beauty as they are revealed.”

Art critic Brian Sherwin, editor of *The Art Edge*, has said, “I enjoy the physicality of Georgianne’s methods. The raw quality captures a psychological vibe that begs me to think about the meaning behind the images – and the visual relationship between the artist and viewer. These works provide viewers with a raw narrative...one that is both alluring and haunting.”

Georgianne has titled her featured show *Togetherness*. She comments, “The primary subject of the work featured in *Togetherness* is the existential condition. I use abstracted forms to explore the movement between the joy of kinship and our ultimate aloneness. The solitary sheep or solo cow serves as a counterpoint to my groupings of figures in relationship to one another, expressing the poignancy of our longing for communion in their solitude.”

Thus her show is an ode to relationships, expressed through her whimsically abstracted subjects, whether the bond between young dancers, as in *Ballet Class* (below left) or between animals companionably sharing the canvas space, as with the piece entitled *Horses in Sunshine Wash*, (below center).

Discussing the philosophy behind her approach, Georgianne says, “I believe to make art with all the questions answered deprives the viewer of the joy of discovery and of participating in the act of creation. The choices I make between figuration and abstraction, between what is implied and what is revealed, serve to pull viewers into the painting’s surface and leave them with questions.”

Clearly, she is after something intriguing and obviously different, something that stops viewers in their tracks, as her stylized works do, especially her

large works suitable as a true focal point for any room, making a strong artistic and decorative statement. She also has small works that can adorn the most intimate nook.

Georgianne has aficionados aplenty. Do come and join their ranks! The opening reception is on Saturday, September 17, 5:00 to 9:00.

A catalog of Georgianne’s available works will be on hand. And the October newsletter will have more on Georgianne’s featured show.



FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER GUS FEISSEL

*Monument Valley Magic*



The setting: Monument Valley Tribal Park, Navajo country, northeastern Arizona. The expanse seemingly is endless, as is the monochromatic, rusty iron-oxide tone that spreads in all directions. In daytime, the overarching sky is a vivid, contrasting turquoise. Here and there a wall, a butte, or a spire rises majestically from the arid landscape. The feeling is one of solitude and of extreme isolation.

Into this solitude and isolation steps Gus Feissel, toting his camera gear and following his Navajo guide, Fred Cly, who knows, like the veins of his own hand, the unidentified dirt tracks crisscrossing the desert terrain. “You almost expect to see a stage coach from a John Ford movie careening through the landscape,” Gus says. “From movies and magazines the scenery is so familiar you almost think you must have been there before, but the reality is far more stunning than any second-hand experience prepares you for.”

Gus comments, “A



“number of images, such as *Pastel Evening With Full Moon* (above) and *Teardrop Arch At Sunrise* (below left), were taken around sunrise and sunset. Known as the magic hour, these two relatively short periods of the day, just before sunrise and the last hour of light before sunset, offer the best opportunity for photography, with the light at its most spectacular and the color of the sky its most dramatic. The timing is critical. The duration is short, the light fleeting, the conditions quickly changing, and, when these elements are gone, that's it for the day. Therefore to be at the right place at the right time is everything.

“During the day, when the light was too harsh, we discussed options and scouted locations, orientation, and viewpoints. As shadows began to lengthen, shadings became more subtle and details like the ripples in the sand begin to delineate, as in *Ancestors* (on page 4). The eye-catching ripples, along with the scattered touches of green, help capture an unmistakable sense of place.

“I was fortunate to have been at Monument Valley with a knowledgeable guide and under ideal conditions, with the perfect interaction between sun, light, and clouds, coupled with beautiful subjects. I was ready with a sturdy tripod and good depth of field and exposure calculations when the time was right. All this made for dramatic images, like those in this show. In three days of shooting, I was able to capture many of the iconic images this extraordinary place has to offer.”



Above: *Ancestors*, photography by Gus Feissel  
Below: *Up Sheep's Creek*, painting by Gerogianne Fastaia.



#### CELEBRATING RIVERFRONT ART GALLERY

The photograph at right was taken by Gus Feissel the night of the official opening reception of Riverfront Art Gallery in October, 2007. To the gratification of the relatively small group of about 20 initial members, the joint was jumpin'! as they say. There was nearly hurricane force excitement!

Of the original set of members only gallery owners Jerrie Jerné and Lance Kuehne, painters Karen Spratt and Henry White and photographers Gus and Sharon Feissel are currently active members, although others still show work from time to time.

#### HEY, POETRY LOVERS POETRY WALK AT RIVERFRONT, SEPT 18

Petaluma's 21st annual poetry walk through historic downtown is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, beginning at Petaluma Seed Bank at 11 a.m. and ending at Aqus Cafe at 6 p.m. Throughout the day, area poets will be at various locations, including Riverfront Art Gallery. The East Bay's Jeanne Lupton, San Francisco's Ed Mycue, and Marin County's Cathy Shea will be on hand at noon to add a touch of literary arts to the visual arts. Schedules (with map) are at the gallery.

#### SPEAKING OF PETALUMA HISTORY

Speaking of town history, the Steiger building, which now houses Riverfront Art Gallery, was the original General Store, which existed prior to the incorporation of the town in 1858. Goods were delivered by train and unloaded directly from cars on the tracks that are still there today.

