

JANUARY 2017

CALL FOR ENTRIES

FEATURED ARTIST
Lance Kuehne

KUEHNE TEACHES AT
PETALUMA HIGH SCHOOL

CAN YOU HELP?

* *

GALLERY OFFERINGS:

Paintings
Mixed Media
Photography
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Woodcraft

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

THE GALLERY'S WINTER SHOW
JANUARY 11 TO MARCH 5, 2017

SHOW OPENING AND ART WALK RECEPTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 5:00 - 9:00 PM
Musical Interludes by Anya Irvin

Call for Entries:
"Showin' On The River!"

Riverfront Art Gallery's Annual
Juried Fine Art Photography Show

Entry deadline: Saturday, January 21st
Show dates: March 8 to May 7, 2017

Now that the holiday rush is over, and you don't know what to do with all the free time you suddenly seem to have, why not go through those marvelous photographs sitting in your computer or external hard drive? Must be a bunch of superlative images that you really would like for people to see. Here's your chance!

As always, there is no theme. We just want you to show us your best work. The entry fee continues to be only \$35 for up to 3 entries. The show will be up for two months, making this the bargain of the year! Although the entry deadline is Saturday, January 21st, you may submit entries anytime during the first three weeks of January.

For full instructions, please find the pdf of the guidelines and entry form on the gallery's website: www.riverfrontartgallery.com and scroll down the lefthand menu to find the Call for Entries link to the juried shows. Click on the photography show link and download.

We look forward to seeing your work on gallery walls!

FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER LANCE KUEHNE
“Photoshopped or Not?”

In his featured show, *Photoshopped or Not?*, Lance Kuehne throws down the gauntlet, challenging viewers to determine whether an image has been “photoshopped.” Lance tells us, “My featured show is about my straddling the worlds of ‘straight photography’ and ‘creative license’. Since I am not a photojournalist, there is no requirement to make my photographs document ‘reality’.”

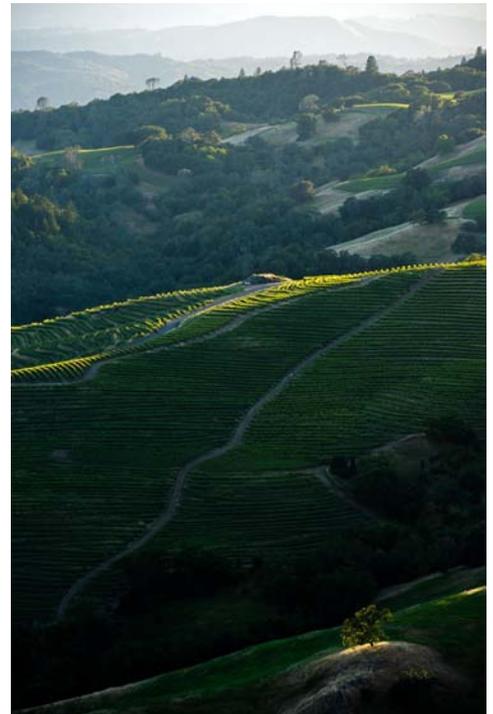
But let’s back up for a moment and give the “photoshopped” question some background. When Riverfront Art Gallery first opened, the question “Was that photoshopped?” was asked fairly often. With time and greater public understanding of digital photography, the question now arises less often. It isn’t actually an informative question. Digital cameras store data, not images. It takes an image development program, like Photoshop, Lightroom, etc. to convert data into an image in the computer. So, of necessity, all digital images are “photoshopped” (developed) in some program or other. In addition, all cameras are limited in their ability to capture light and color accurately, so, from that perspective also, some image adjustment is virtually always required for producing a fine art print. “Of course,” Lance says, “every photograph I have ever shown has been “photoshopped”, since I used Photoshop to develop them, as well as to adjust color and contrast.”

The second function of these programs is to give the photographer control over how he wants the viewer to experience the image. This creative control issue was equally prevalent in the chemical dark room. Ansel Adams famously did dozens and dozens of versions in the dark room to get the image he wanted, keeping notes so he could repeat the results in the future. Yet nobody would have asked whether his images had been “dark-roomed.” So the question of “photoshopped or not?” isn’t worth asking. The question to be answered really is whether or not the image resonates with the viewer. The significant issue isn’t how the image was

produced but rather what reaction it produces.

The show will feature photographs with varying degrees of modification. Some modifications won’t be detectable, others will be obvious.”

Lance assures us that some of the works actually are straight photographs, such as *Spotlight* (right), taken in Sonoma wine country with random sunbeam highlights.



Getting into those slight alterations for the sake of a better fine art print, Lance points out his image, *Hills of Green* (below), which he says already has quite a history. “I’ve had it on my business card since Spring. A massive print of it has been shipped to Massachusetts, and Image Conscious of San Francisco has licensed it for posters and reproductions. It is an example of delicate alteration by using an Instagram filter to bring out detail in the sky.”



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Lance continues, “Wine Country Winter (below) is another subtly altered photograph, where some of the highlights and colors were also modified with Instagram filters.”



“Other pictures were modified to intentionally seem as if they are from another era, such as *Golden Gate* (below). I wanted to make it look like a color photograph that was taken when the bridge was brand new. Other modifications strengthen a mood already noticeable in the image but which is more effectively rendered with a bit of interpretation, as you will see in *Mountain Cabin* (top right). Then for even more



enhancement to really stress the color and texture of the wine country landscape, I can direct you to *Sonoma Hillside Shadows* (below), which you will probably recognize as having been pushed more toward the limits. This is an artistic choice, although it isn’t all that far off from the reddish impression of some of the vineyards, when the leaves are gone and just the rows of slightly reddish vines remain.”



None of the images in this featured show have been shown in the gallery previously. This means that Lance’s numerous fans will be delighted at the new body of work and those just being introduced to his work should be equally delighted at these latest offerings. Lance will be on hand for the opening reception. Do come to meet this featured artist!

Opening reception
Saturday, January 14, 5:00 to 9:00
with young musician Anya Irvin
playing jazz-influenced guitar.

MEMBER NEWS

GALLERY CO-OWNER, LANCE KUEHNE TEACHING PHOTOGRAPHY AT PETALUMA HIGH SCHOOL

Riverfront Art Gallery co-owner Lance Kuehne now teaches photography at Petaluma High School, sometimes two, sometimes three days a week. The appointment came suddenly, so he has had to do lots of juggling and running in place to take on this sizable task.

Lance tells us, “Unfortunately I started teaching a month after school started, so I have been in catch up mode ever since, but I am beginning to get a better handle on things. It is quite a responsibility to have a large influence on a new generation, but I also have to take into account that they are indeed teenagers and their mind isn’t totally focused on photography (or even school). And there is the fact that, to many of them, photography is clicking a button on their phone.

“It is funny when you hand a film camera and a roll of film to someone born in this century. They look at you like a puppy with their head cocked sideways, thinking ‘What do I do with this?’. They are definitely learning new things in class, even if it is not directly related to art. They are learning the concept of winding and re-winding film, not exposing film (or paper) to light before it is developed (through lots of trial and error, with plenty of ‘error’).

“I really enjoy teaching, and have led workshops for years, but being a high school teacher is an almost totally different experience. I enjoy working with kids, but working with such large numbers of them at a time (32 to a class in 3 classes), and having such limited resources (insufficient supplies, dated equipment, and a shortage of functional cameras) adds additional challenges to teaching. That is not to say I don’t like the job; I am just saying it is certainly not easy in so many ways that are not related to the subject you are teaching, and my respect for public school teachers has only increased from where it was before.

“I am simultaneously getting accredited to

to teach the arts in California’s public schools, while teaching the high school classes, continuing to lead landscape photography workshops, managing a gallery, and pursuing my own art career, so you could say I’m pretty busy. I’m soooo looking forward to summer vacation...!”

Go Trojans!

CAN YOU HELP THE PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL?

If you have photography equipment sitting unused on a shelf, please consider donating it to the photography program. In describing the less-than-satisfactory situation he inherited, Lance explained the following. “The school is primarily set up for darkroom photography, with some old computers for digital photography, but there is a shortage of both film and digital cameras. Ideally, I would like to have the same cameras for the entire class so that when I say, “Press this button” to a classroom full of students, they all have that button.

“I am trying to standardize the film cameras around the Canon A1 with a 50mm lens, although I am open to other “classic” cameras from the late 1960’s to early 1980’s that don’t eat up batteries like the auto-focus, motor-wind models of the late 1980’s to early 2000’s do. Those are my preferences, but I’ll take any camera or lens that works.

“As to digital cameras, I prefer to get cameras in the Canon 20D, 30D, 40D... family. But I’ll take anything with manual control of shutter speed and aperture. I will also accept donations of film and paper (both digital and darkroom),” Lance concludes.

If you have donations, please bring them to Riverfront Art Gallery, 132 Petaluma Blvd. North during open hours: Wed, Thurs, Sun 11 to 6, Fri and Sat 11 to 8. Closed Mon and Tues.

Thanks for your help!