



NEWSLETTER

THE GALLERY'S LATE SPRING SHOW
MAY 8 TO JULY 2, 2017

SHOW OPENING & SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK RECEPTION
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 5:00 - 9:00
Musical Interludes By Los Gúachis

MAY 2017

BEST GALLERY!!!

CALL FOR ENTRIES

FEATURED ARTISTS

Janet Doto
Philip Wilkinson

SPOTLIGHT
Kari Manwiller

MEMBER NEWS

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GALLERY OFFERINGS

Paintings
Mixed Media
Photography
Jewelry
Pottery
Sculpture
Sculptural Lamps
Woodcraft

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2017 PETALUMA PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We are throwing our hats in the air and yelling "**Yippee!**" So what's the shouting all about? The lovely people of Petaluma have once again voted Riverfront the **Best Art Gallery!** Thank you all for your ongoing support. It means a great deal to the gallery and to all of our wonderful artists.

Call for Entries

"Showin' On The River!"

Riverfront Art Gallery's Annual
Juried *Fine Art Show*

Entry deadline: Saturday, May 20, 2017
Show dates: July 5 to Sept 3, 2017

Artists, whether your work is in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, pen and ink, fabric, collage, or mixed media, and whether your style is figurative, realism, or abstract, we would love to see your entries. There is no theme. Just send us your best works. Amateur artists welcome.

You may enter anytime up to May 20. For complete submission guidelines and entry form, go to Riverfront's website: www.riverfrontartgallery.com. At the bottom of the left-hand menu, click on Call For Entries to get to the juried shows page. If you have questions, please email the gallery and put "juried show" in the subject line. info@riverfrontartgallery.com.

FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER JANET DOTO
The Road Home

Janet Doto says, “*The Road Home* expresses my looping through life, ending up where I began. I'm absolutely in love with the topography of Sonoma and Marin counties. Just looking out the window makes my heart sing and my hands itch to paint. I spend a great deal of time hiking Annadel, Spring Lake, Mt. Taylor, and any path that's not too steep or too muddy. My goal is to carry my paints to the summit of Hood Mountain in Kenwood, which was named after a great, great uncle William Hood, and paint the view till it's too dark to see!”

Janet's circular journey through life included 23 years in the Air Force, which she joined after high school. Her Air Force travels introduced her to places as different as Iran and Norway near the Arctic Circle. Throughout those travels, she sketched and painted.

Retiring in the Florida Keys, Janet paid her artistic dues in numerous outdoor art shows, then graduated to a gallery in Islamorada. She says, “It's the sports fishing capital of the world, so I was painting game fish, birds, and island landscapes. I worked exclusively in watercolors, because the fluid quality lent itself to painting fluid things! It really was fun and exciting to share space with amazing local artists.” Janet was a recognized artist in the Keys for a good ten years.



Her “life loop” was completed two years ago when Janet and her husband moved to Santa Rosa, where she was born. “Here I decided to reinvent myself. I took up oils with local teachers, but eventually found I was allergic to almost everything involved in oil painting. I do have some oils in the show though, like *Farm House at Pierce Point* (below). Of course, after my stint with oils, I picked up my tried-and-true watercolors again. Sometimes I apply inks to watercolors for a more illustrated look, as with my rooster in *Petaluma Proud* (below left).”

Janet continues, “Painting for me is a blend of faith, hope, skill, and luck. Catching the light, the gleam of sunlight dappling under oaks or sliding off wet vineyards thrills me. Defining the elegant curve of an ancient Cypress sets my heart free. I paint because I just love to say to my viewer, ‘Do you see what I see? Isn't it just exquisite!’ and, God willing, it is!”

The Road Home has watercolors, watercolors & ink, and oils, in addition to a variety of subjects. Some of the Florida influence will be present, as well as local places that resonate with Janet's memories of growing up in Sonoma County and summering on Tomales Bay. Do come to view Janet's show. We guarantee you will be delighted.



FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER & PHOTOGRAPHER PHILIP WILKINSON
Beauties of Spring

Philip Wilkinson, transplanted Australian, travels with camera in hand. He says, “On a Spring drive down a backroad like Hwy. 175, a twisty old stage route between Hopland and Lakeport, I find wildflowers everywhere—in roadside ditches, in fields, on hillsides, their colors scattered amid the green, revealing their hiding places.

“Altering the scale by getting in close to these small subjects allows me to enter another world, one that constantly surprises me with its unexpected shapes, colors, and textures. I see details missed by the casual, passing glance. Nearly always, I simplify the images to convey the beauty of light, color, and line. An example is *Blazing Star* (below) with its intense color and spectacular form. It was on a sparse, dusty-gray bush sitting alone in bare dirt.”



Philip continues, “With my other media—oils and pastels—I work in the same manner, because this kind of art, celebrating the beauty of light and color, does not depend exclusively on the medium. For example, with the pastel *Azalea Glow* (top right), I experimented with working on a black background which highlights the warm orange colors and gives a lit-up effect similar to that in the *Blazing Star* photograph.

“Of course, azaleas are not wildflowers. I also enjoy garden blossoms, like the lilies my wife, Julia grows in the backyard. I painted those beauties, like *Lilies of Spring* (center right) in thick impasto paint.”



The show also includes landscapes, like *Petaluma Fog Break* (below). Philip explains, “I tried to capture the essence of the coastal hills behind Petaluma in early Spring. When the grey fog breaks, the golden yellow and green of the rolling hillsides dance in the sun. Oh, I do like rusty old barns, and ponds, and broken down fences!”

In short, Philip says, “I want my works to be arresting and interesting, calling the viewer across the room today and tomorrow and through the years.”



SPOTLIGHT

Invitational Artist Kari Manwiller

"I'm fascinated by how many parts come together in cooperation to make a whole," says mixed-media artist Kari Manwiller (who previously signed her works with De Saulnier). "I start with a blank canvas and no plan. I approach the canvas as if we are having a conversation or forming a relationship. The work is a collaboration between me and the painting. I may start with a wash, put down an area of color, and pick from my collection of marking tools to begin texturizing the surface. Anything goes. That kind of freedom is quite exhilarating!"

However since this process is not a one-way street, after the initial phase, Kari pauses. "Then the time comes to wait for a response from the painting. What does it want? What is trying to come out? I try to place myself in the natural order of what is emerging and go with it."

In a way, although completely abstract, Kari's work does draw on life. She says, "I am intrigued by how much of life seems like chance and yet an order emerges out of what appears like chaos. My process requires faith, courage, and trust that something will eventually emerge and reveal itself. It seems there is no language or image for what is wanting to come out—as if I am speechless and yet I am full of response."

Most painters begin by painting on paper or canvas. Kari began as a painter of 3-D objects

and ceramics in 1989. A decade later, she moved into mixed media and abstract painting. Some of Kari's color and texture come from her own handmade papers, as well as from whatever she comes across that might turn out to be useful. Then there is her skill in taking advantage of the versatility and textural qualities of acrylic paints.

Kari's work is bright, fresh, spontaneous, even humorous, and always intricate, as we see in *Playground* (left) and *Transition* (below), which are in the gallery now. Do come to enjoy first hand Kari's unending creativity.



MEMBER NEWS

Riverfront Artist **KAREN SPRATT** in

**Petaluma Art Association's
Open Studios Event
Saturday & Sunday
May 6 and 7, 11:00-5:00**

Visit her at her studio:
401 7th St., Petaluma

For more event information, go to:
www.petalumaarts.org.

