



NEWSLETTER

**THE GALLERY'S 10th ANNIVERSARY SHOW
CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2017**

**SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
OCTOBER 14, 5:00 - 8:00**

OCTOBER 2017

**10TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**HIGHLIGHTING
FOUNDING MEMBERS**

**Sharon Feissel
Marilee Ford
Christine Kierstead
Karen Spratt
Henry White**

**CHARITY RAFFLE &
SILENT AUCTION
RESULTS**

GALLERY OFFERINGS

**Paintings
Mixed Media
Photography
Jewelry
Pottery
Sculpture
Sculptural Lamps
Woodcraft
Greeting Cards**

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278



Riverfront thanks Cucina Paradiso for catering the 10th Anniversary reception.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS!

Amid the sizable flowing crowd, the clink of glasses, the Rivereens' toe-tapping music, the excitement of the raffle and silent auction, and the general elation and joviality, there was also a quiet pride born of struggle and success. Co-owners Jerrie Morago and Lance Kuehne readily admit they had no idea the gallery would survive to a 10th year.

Yet over the ten years, the gallery has served several hundred local artists through gallery membership, the Invitational Artist program, and the annual juried shows, while also enriching Petaluma's cultural and artistic life.

Jerrie comments, "Lance and I built the gallery, but without all the amazing artists that have joined us in the past ten years, we would never have been that successful. Bringing so many unique collections of work to the public is an accomplishment. Our patrons regularly comment on the diversity and quality of the work we show. The fact that Riverfront has won nine awards in its ten years is proof that we have made a difference. We are very proud!"

CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

In founding Riverfront Art Gallery in late 2007, co-owners Jerrie Morago and Lance Kuehne were joined by 19 founding members. All were optimistic and determined to make the gallery a success. Of course, larger forces intervened and the subsequent economic circumstances were hard for everyone. Slowly most of the founders dropped out or moved away. Those early years were definitely a struggle. We mention, in memoriam, JoAnn Naylor and Larry Glass.

It is noteworthy that a decade later, five of the initial 19 founding members (21 counting Jerrie and Lance) are showing in the gallery. They are profiled on the following pages, where we will remind you of the scope and quality of their work, not necessarily what they are showing currently. The gallery is deeply appreciative of the loyalty and continued participation of these fine artists.

As gallery members, they have been required to gallery sit, so patrons and visitors probably know their faces if not their names, but some have also been more deeply involved. Karen Spratt and Sharon Feissel have served with Jerrie and Lance on the Show Committee with involvement in considering new members and in helping with the two annual juried shows. Karen has had various other responsibilities as well and Sharon has written the newsletter since its inception in 2010 and has done articles about gallery artists for the much-missed *Petaluma Post* and *The Sonoma County Gazette*. Henry started The Rivereens to provide music for the earlier receptions, although numerous community groups now participate. These artists have added much to the life of the gallery. We appreciate them all. Learn about them in the following pages and be sure to check out their current show at the gallery.

FOUNDING MEMBER: PHOTOGRAPHER & PAINTER SHARON FEISSEL

Coming late to the realization that she wanted to delve into "artistic expression," Sharon Feissel got her first professional level camera after her husband retired, and they moved to Santa Rosa. Initially, photography was challenging enough. However, at one point she began experimenting with altered photographs and with creating photomontage images by scanning slides into the computer and isolating bits and pieces to use in constructing entirely new photomontage images, which became quite different from the reality they were derived from. She comments, "This was exhilarating, since it required pure creative thought along with developing technical skill." More recently Sharon has picked up the paint brush, experimenting with abstracts and mixed media. "A blank white canvas can be very intimidating," she says, "because you have to come up with everything yourself. However, it is where I can indulge my sense of color, edge into new techniques, experiment with unusual subjects, and explore concepts."



Above: photomontage
Others: paintings

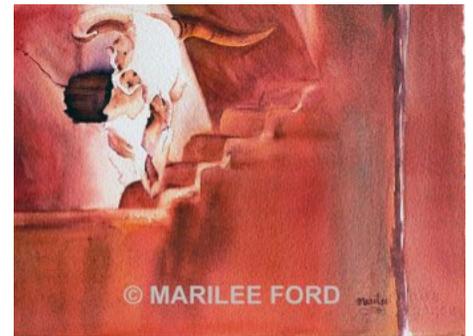


FOUNDING MEMBER: PAINTER MARILEE FORD

For a long time, Marilee Ford sandwiched her art in between nursing, bookkeeping for a family business, and life's other obligations. Now in retirement, Marilee has time to devote to her art. She says, "My primary mediums are watercolor and oils. However, I love anything with texture and fluidity, such as encaustic wax painting. I have also worked in clay, multi-media constructions, movement, poetry, music, and photography. I am inspired by nature, whether Sonoma County or the far flung countries of the world." Marilee often does landscapes, but beautiful fruits and florals have also



come from her brush. Note the detail and color intensity in *Poppy* (below center), the Georgia O'Keefe-like rendering of *Ghost House* (below right), and the luscious depth of the vista in *Springtime at the BB* (above right). *We Grow Happy Cows* (below left) captures the local rural essence.



FOUNDING MEMBER: PAINTER CHRISTINE KIERSTEAD

Christine Kierstead's lively, spirited, caring personality shows in the free flow of her brush strokes and great expansiveness of many of her works, especially her landscapes, some of which border on abstraction. Nostalgia is sometimes a theme, as in her series on once-treasured items that are now disappearing from our culture: phonograph, newspaper on the porch, etc. Her compassion shows in animal portraits she has done of abandoned and mistreated animals in local shelters and her donation of profits from those paintings toward their care. Her skill in rendering animals has resulted in her reputation as an animal portraitist. She will gladly take on a commission to immortalize your favorite pet.



But Christine's *joie de vivre*, her exuberant enjoyment of life, has been severely tested by adult onset epilepsy. Even the removal of a portion of her brain has not stopped the seizures, leaving her unable to drive or even to leave the house without some anxiety that she may collapse anywhere at anytime. But even in such distress, Christine produced effective emotional, personal portraits and abstracts representing this challenge to her way of life. Still she perseveres.



FOUNDING MEMBER: PAINTER KAREN SPRATT

Karen Spratt is a supremely versatile artist. She has woven her own materials for scarves and caps, and she knits and crochets. She has shown photography in the gallery as well. However, Karen is best known for her skill and humor in her oils, sometimes paying homage to famous masters of old. Much of her work is surrealistic, like her Hokusai wave in a teapot or bathtub, stone Venus de Milo photographing the stone presidents at Mt. Rushmore, or the incongruous juxtaposition of natural and man-made objects, contrasting their essences.



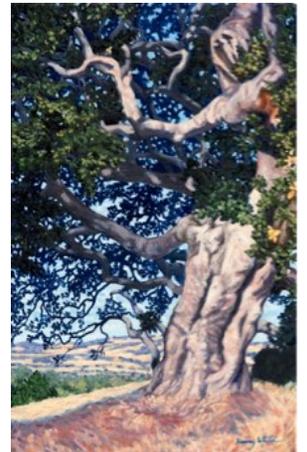
Yet, Karen is fully capable of realism and exquisite detail as she demonstrates in her cut-crystal works. Nostalgia is sometimes present, like depicting the empty swing of childhood. A philosophical bent sometimes finds its way in, like



her fancy chicken surrounded by eggs and perhaps asserting its primacy. Whatever the subject or style, expect something fine and distinctive from her brush.

FOUNDING MEMBER: PAINTER HENRY WHITE

Henry White is known as a multi-faceted artist in both fine art and commercial spheres. He is concerned about the environment and the effects of urban and vineyard sprawl and other factors having a negative effect. Henry has spent years walking through the local landscape and along area trails among the oaks that are a favorite subject in his paintings. He is so familiar with the landscape around Petaluma that he can even tell you about individual trees. In addition to trees and landscapes, Henry also paints still lifes and portraits. There is a bit of whimsy as well in his series on coffee mugs. His work for commercial entities includes designs, logos, CD covers, labels, etc. Henry designed Riverfront Art Gallery's logo with its Petaluma river vista.



10TH ANNIVERSARY CHARITY ART RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Riverfront artists donated their artwork to the charity art raffle and silent auction as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration. We thank them profusely! Thanks also to our patrons who participated and who benefitted by obtaining a nice piece of art. The purpose of the 10th Anniversary raffle and silent auction was to raise funds for the Petaluma High School Art Program, thus allowing the gallery to support potential artists of the future. The raffle and some silent auction pieces were won the night of the reception. Other silent auction pieces were accepting bids through the celebration month of September.

We are proud to report that the raffle and silent auction raised \$500, which will augment the Petaluma High School art department's supplies and equipment.

THANKS TO GALLERY ARTISTS & OTHER SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Raffle donations from artists:

- **Laura Tovar Dietrick** - \$35. matted original pastel
- **Gus Feissel** - \$75. "Mustard & Trees" matted photograph
- **Gus Feissel** - \$60. "Safely Home" matted photograph
- **Sharon Feissel** - \$65. "Mesa Transition I" matted photomontage
- **Sharon Feissel** - \$65. "Sandscape" matted photograph
- **Sharon Feissel** - \$130. "Blind Sight" matted photograph
- **Frank Oravetz** - \$55. "The Salon in Champagne Heaven" matted photograph
- **Karen Spratt** - your choice from print bin
- **Cathy Thomas** - \$50. "Tall Toad Music" matted print
- **Philip Wilkinson** - \$45. "Sailboat" matted giclee

Silent auction donations from artists currently or previously in gallery shows:

- **Janet Doto** - \$185. "Spring Fence" original watercolor
- **Gus Feissel** - \$250. "Mustard and Vine" photograph by Gus Feissel
- **Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz** - \$145. "Watercolor Tulip II" photograph
- **David Iskra** - \$200. "Fall" photograph
- **Jerrie Jerne Morago** - \$395. "Marti Gras" photopainting
- **Lance Kuehne** - \$750. "Spinach for Me" oil by Hector Flores
- **Lance Kuehne** - \$350.- "Geyser Eruptions" photograph
- **Robert McFarland** - \$300. "Petaluma in Spring" photograph
- **Dan Melville** - \$265. Grape Vase Lamp Assemblage
- **Diana Monk** - \$225. "Autumnscape II" oil
- **Maury Rockowitz** (photography studio above the gallery)- a portrait session
- **Margie Schureman** - \$275. "Mushroom" mixed media
- **Linda Capizano** - \$95. certificate for SkinSations
- **Cathy Thomas** - \$150. "Musical Instruments" triptych collage
- **Clyde Thomas** - \$125. "Petaluma Pampas Grass" photograph
- **Clyde Thomas** - \$175. "Blue Calm" photograph
- **Michelle Sottile-Smith** - \$68. Hand-painted silk scarf

We also thank J. Fermi boutique for donating a \$50 gift certificate.