

NEWSLETTER

**THE GALLERY'S LATE FALL SHOW
NOVEMBER 8, 2017 TO JANUARY 7, 2018**

**OPENING RECEPTION & SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
NOVEMBER 11, 5:00 - 8:00
Musical Interludes by Los Gúachis**

NOVEMBER 2017

RETURNING MEMBER

Irene Korsky

FEATURED ARTISTS

Laura Tovar Dietrick

Henry White

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Coman

Diana Monk

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GALLERY OFFERINGS

Paintings

Mixed Media

Photography

Jewelry

Pottery

Sculpture

Woodcraft

Sculptural Lamps

Greeting Cards

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WELCOME BACK, IRENE KORSKY!

it is a pleasure to have Irene Korsky's distinctive work on gallery walls again! Her list of accomplishments is long, but let us tease you with a few. Her work has been exhibited at the White House, no less, and shown at The Pen and Brush in New York, the Hammond Museum, and the Silver Mine School of Art. She has awards from various competitions, including locally from the Academy of Art and from the Marin County Fair. She has taught Sumie (Japanese black ink painting) and PoMo (Chinese "splashing ink" painting), and traditional watercolor painting for over 25 years.

As with many artists, Irene is keyed in to the natural world. She says, "My artistic purpose is to express my reverence for and the sense of oneness with nature." However, you will notice a unique quality in Irene's work, due to the unusual technique. She explains, "Only freshly ground pigment is used in my paintings thus achieving strong, pure colors on gold boards and silk. I use a porcelain mortar and pestle to slowly grind the powder paint while adding a little water and glue. The vibrancy and intensity of color in my paintings is due to the high quality powder paint and it's thickness. The skill required to produce these passionate and lyrical images that seem spontaneous requires years of practice before a perfect image can be achieved."



Come and appreciate Irene's work, such as *Golden Sunset* (right).

FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER LAURA TOVAR DIETRICK

A Leap Of Faith is the title of Laura Tovar Dietrick's featured show. She explains it this way: "You stare at a blank canvas and do not yet know what it will be. Sometimes this can be daunting, even incapacitating. Still, you push forward and begin the process of constructing the bones of a painting and pulling together the things you KNOW...like focal point, balance, contrast, texture, and color. Then, the things you don't know begin to emerge, the magic, the unknown, and the LEAP takes place!

It is a leap of faith, because sometimes it doesn't work and goes a direction that loses its way. Sometimes the failure, taken in the light of error, can be numbing. I had a friend who once told me that, 'Every painting simply cannot be a masterpiece.' But the process is always, ALWAYS, a learning process. Learning from your mistakes can only move you forward in your work. For me, moving forward with a particular piece of work, going into the unknown and at some point abandoning what may be right in front of you and *letting go into what may be* is what it is all about. At some point, you simply leap off the cliff and pray that the outcome will be good. When it is good, it is more gratifying than can be explained and is the motivation often that feeds the artist...*at least this artist*. This is what creativity is for me."

Laura is a *plein air* artist, often carting her paints outdoors where she can immerse herself in the scene and absorb the quality of light. "I love

being outside on a gorgeous day. Often I do not finish, so I take a photo and finish later in the studio. I must confess that I usually depart from the image at some point and go my own way."

Laura's lovely show will include a series of small 5x7 oils (at right) and large works like a beautiful 20 x 60 seascape.

Laura is an expert painter of abstracts, which we will feature in the December issue. In the meantime, do come to see this fine work for yourself!



Above top: *Monterey Spanish Moss*
Above center: *Watmough Road View*
Above bottom: *Gundlach Bundschu Path*

Below: *Sea Ranch Triptych*



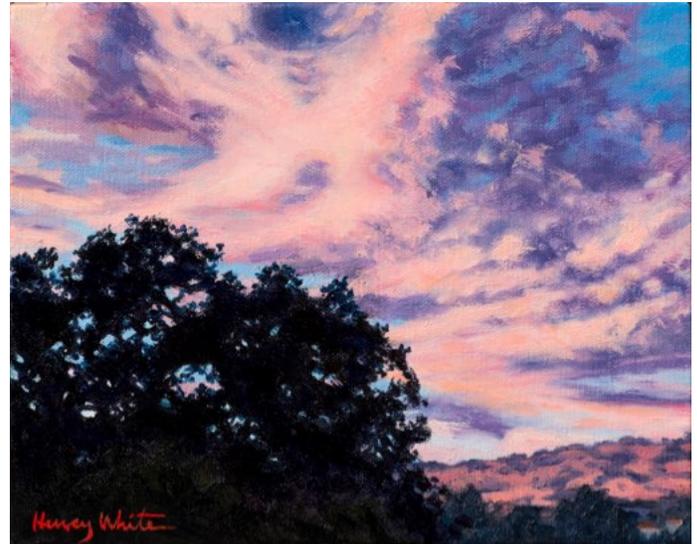
FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER HENRY WHITE

Henry White's show title, *Roaming Petaluma's Hills*, accurately describes what Henry himself does. He says, "The viewpoints of many of these paintings are the hills and ridges around Petaluma...and in Sonoma and Marin counties. Several are from Sonoma Mountain or La Cresta Ridge on the west side of Petaluma. I really like to look at hills and mountains and oak forests from afar. Equally, I like to climb up the hills and look at the surrounding countryside."

Henry continues, "I have a few paintings either from Lafferty Ranch or of Lafferty and Sonoma Mountain. For example, *Tam from Lafferty* (below center) is a view from the slopes of Sonoma Mountain with Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Burdell, and the Petaluma River.

"*Lafferty* (bottom left) is looking east to Sonoma Mountain with Lafferty Ranch on the upper left just below the summit. This is a (rare for me) plain air view from my house on the other side of the Petaluma valley. Some of downtown Petaluma is visible with St. Vincent's church, the feed silos, and the Petaluma Hotel."

Conservation of the environment is a major interest for Henry, so it isn't surprising that he favors Lafferty Ranch. In his painting *On Lafferty* (below right) we have the view from upper Lafferty Ranch on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain. The Petaluma River

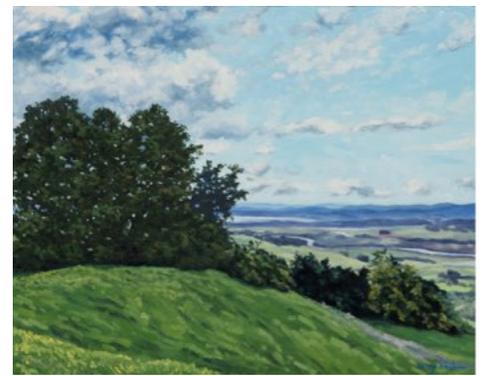
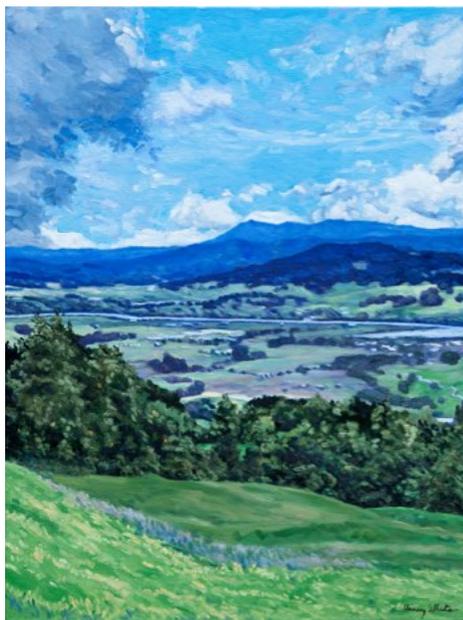
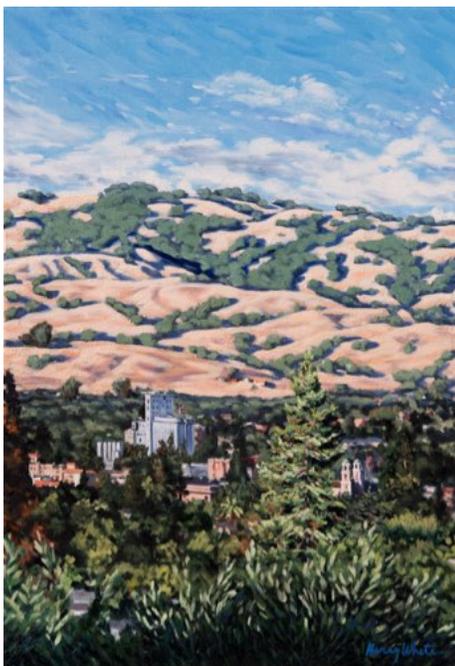


lies below. Lafferty Ranch is owned by the City of Petaluma. Henry hopes it will become a public park, so that everyone can enjoy the valley from that perspective.

Henry continues, "In *Eastern Sky at Sunset* (above) I show majestic oaks and Sonoma Mountain on the right side." As you can see, with this lovely show, Henry is guiding viewers around Petaluma's hills and valleys with views in various directions—a personal tour, perhaps. The show does include a few images from Marin County and elsewhere.

In closing, Henry comments, "For me the impulse to create is like life and love—a quickening of the spirit and rising joy of the world, both within and without, and a desire to connect with the natural world and other humans."

Make sure to see this lovely show. You will be pleased that you did.



NEW GALLERY MEMBERS: PAINTERS DIANA MONK & MARY COMAN

Riverfront Art Gallery is pleased to welcome new gallery member **Diana Monk**, a landscape and still life painter who describes her colorful, impressionistic works as "imaginative realism," as seen in her *Spring Landscape #1* (below).

Diana has painted since childhood and, after training at SF College of Fine Arts and the California College of Arts and Crafts, she became well-known as a portrait and air brush artist, teacher, gallery director, and raconteur in the mid-century Bay Area arts scene. After a 20-year stint ranching horses in Santa Rosa, she has returned to her calling as an artist. "Painting," she says, "is my purpose, my joy, and my love letter to life itself."

Diana paints in oils because "nothing can match oils for richness of color, complexity, depth, and texture." Reflecting upon how her paintings are built up layer by layer over many days and weeks, she muses, "I find nothing quite so magical as the way a painting materializes out of the mix of what the eye sees, what the heart knows, and the joyful application of color and form on canvas."

In closing, Diana comments, "Pablo Picasso once said, 'the purpose of art is to wash the dust of daily life off our souls,'" and hopefully yours will feel just a little bit shinier after viewing my work."



Riverfront also welcomes Bay-area native, **Mary Coman**. Her unusual style and techniques will be a fine addition to the gallery.

Mary tells us that her paintings are inspired by her love of the natural world and her technique has been strongly influenced by Rembrandt and the depth and beautiful luminosity of his paintings. She says, "In my landscapes and still life works I use many layers of oil mixed with medium, adding glazes, and then partially removing them.

"The images in my paintings, such as in *Unraveling* (below top) are from my imagination, but they always begin with a concept – an experience, appealing shapes, a beautiful light. As each work develops, my focus shifts to following the lines and shapes and movements that are emerging. However, the finished piece is always unexpected."

Mary not only works in oils but also does drawings such as *Delirious* (below bottom).

"These," Mary says, "are also inspired by nature."

Come meet our new artists at the opening reception, Saturday, November 11th.

