



NEWSLETTER

THE GALLERY'S WINTER SHOW
JANUARY 10 TO MARCH 4, 2018

OPENING RECEPTION & SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
JANUARY 13, 5:00 - 8:00
Musical Interludes by Michael Hantman

JANUARY 2018

CALL FOR ENTRIES

FEATURED ARTISTS

Marilee Ford
Sharon Feissel

SPOTLIGHT ON

Penny Popken
Deborah Macias

MEMBER NEWS

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*WISHING OUR CUSTOMERS AND
WONDERFUL ARTISTS
A SPECTACULAR 2018!*

Call for Entries

“Showin’ On The River!”

Annual Juried Photography Show

Entry Deadline Saturday, Jan. 20

Hey, all you camera buffs! It's time to send in your entries for the upcoming juried photography show. All photographic methods and techniques are acceptable—B&W, infra red, pinhole, motion, time lapse, etc. Photomontage and other works derived from photography are also acceptable, provided the initial photographs and all alterations are the work of the entrant.

Amateurs may enter. Entries are judged on their quality, not on the experience of the photographer.

The juried photography show will run during the gallery's Late Winter Show, March 7 through May 6. For details, see the downloadable entry Guidelines on the gallery's website. The direct link is: http://www.riverfrontartgallery.com/call_for_artists/juried_art_photography_entry_form_2018.pdf.

FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER MARILEE FORD

Marilee Ford and Sharon Feissel are sharing the theme, *Heaven & Earth & The Space Between* for their featured show running from January 10 through March 4.

Asked about depicting this theme, Marilee comments, "I find that the space between Heaven and Earth is a place I often explore in my art. The transitions from Earth to Heaven or even to the underworld are exciting and creative juice for me. *View From The Window* (below) is literally my interpretation of the view seen from the window of an airplane taking off over the Bay Area. As we climb above the landforms, the view becomes quite ethereal, rising from tangible to almost intangible clouds.

"The *Dancing on Hot Sands* encaustic painting (top right) represents an infrared satellite image of the earth below the surface of the Sahara Desert. Of course, the satellite itself is hovering in the 'between space' but the image it captures gives us a deeper sense of what is below the surface of Earth itself. Similarly my encaustic, *A Drop Into Another World* (center right), can be seen as a drop into a world that is evolving from solid stone into molten earth. It suggests the continual alchemical transformation of materials that is a part of every aspect of our earthly existence. Finally, *Landscape Between Heaven and Earth* (bottom right) reimagines the River Styx which in mythology leads to the underworld. Here it must be crossed to reach the Heavens."

Marilee's comments give us insight into an artist's thoughts. Let's also take a quick look at her methods. Marilee has long worked in watercolors, oils, and acrylics. More recently she has taken up encaustics (hot wax painting) which she says is like watercolors in that she becomes entranced by the unpredictable and often pleasing surprises. Hot wax is colored by adding pigments. Then metal tools and special brushes are used to paint with the wax before it cools. The wax can be sculpted and layered. Marilee says, "I often create a mixed-media piece by adding other materials to the surface. I love the texture and rich colors."



FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER & PHOTOGRAPHER SHARON FEISSEL

Sharon Feissel is also addressing the theme *Heaven, Earth & The Space Between*. “For the Heaven portion,” she says, “I have chosen my Cosmos Series. The paintings imply spontaneous cosmic events. Although they differ from each other, their effects were all created by squirting water into the paints. It was a new approach for me. I had no idea what to expect and, as viewers can see, I got quite different results with *The Creation Of Color* (bottom left), *Cosmic Convergence* (bottom center), and *Out Of Chaos* (bottom right).”

The Earth portion of Sharon’s show will be discussed in the February newsletter, but we still have “the space between” to touch on. “Well,” Sharon says, “between Heaven and Earth is an undefined space, so that gives us plenty of leeway. I decided to show images that are abstract and non-specific, although the swirly motions of heavenly processes and the undulations of earthly form evolution might be suggested by the mixed media pieces in the show. *Beaded Abstract* (center right) suggests water movement perhaps or mineral deposit strata with its copper outcroppings, but the beads running through the dark portion keep it from any direct depiction. The same is true for *Metallic Meanderings II* (right), with its accents of various-sized washers. They add an interesting touch, because their luminance changes with changing light.”

A third method is the photomontage technique used to produce *Kinesia I* (below top). Sharon explains it as “...purely a fantasy piece clearly falling between what is real and tangible and what is not. However, this piece was created by extracting small forms out of my photographs of reflections of colorful mesas in the waters of Lake Powell, AZ, and recombining them into an abstract image. Thus the tonal range of the piece is of earth itself with a small nod to water, but really it has no place either in Heaven or on Earth, so it is from that between space where creation dwells. Please enjoy my show!”



SPOTLIGHT ON

PAINTER PENNY POPKEN



Penny Popken achieves great style with few brushstrokes, as with her *Meandering Lavender* (left) and *Leader of the Pack* (below). She goes on site to quickly capture the

essence of a place, then in the studio she paints larger renditions on wrapped canvas, working as large as 36x36. All sizes are available.

Penny comments, "Among my favorite subjects are wine country landscapes such as vineyards and mustard-filled meadows, rolling hillsides, etc. I really love to paint lavender fields (Matanzas Creek Winery is a favorite destination) along with pumpkin patches. I paint



Sierra Nevada scenery from the Lakes Basin near Graeagle." Penny will also paint landscapes on commission.

Looking forward, she says, "I've begun experimenting with floral still lifes and, inspired by accomplished friends, I may also venture into abstracts. I keep learning!"

PAINTER DEBORAH MACIAS



A native of California, Deborah draws upon her familiarity with local landscapes, as with *California Hills* (bottom). She often creates beautiful, subtle, soft-toned oils that are supremely restful to look at. She has a command of strong color as well, as seen in *The Marsh* (above). Many of her paintings are panoramas that work well above sofas or desks where something wider is advantageous.

Deborah says, "I have loved landscapes all my life. My paintings are mental landscapes. Nature is the balance of life. Nature inspires me. I paint the emotion I am feeling about what I see. Each painting takes form in color and light with quiet softness. I hope you enjoy my paintings."

Deborah will do work on commission and "customize just for you."



MEMBER NEWS

Thru Jan 9: Marilee Ford & Family, *Generations* show at Redwood Cafe, 8240 Old Redwood Hwy., Cotati

Thru February: Henry White's work at the Tasting Room on the Green, 9050 Windsor Rd, Windsor,

Thru March 4: Henry White's work in Aqus Cafe's *Small Works Show*, 2nd & H Streets, Petaluma