



NEWSLETTER

**THE GALLERY'S WINTER SHOW
THROUGH MARCH 3, 2019**

**Art Walk Reception
Saturday, February 9, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

FEBRUARY 2019

CURRENT SHOW

**Brian Cluer
Alexis Greenberg
Michele Rosette**

INTRODUCING

**Janet Manuta
Isabelle Truchon**

RETURNING ARTIST

Bill Pfeffer

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THE CURRENT SHOW

The current show presents serene shoreline paintings and frozen riverbank photographs. These nature subjects are juxtaposed with multiple exposure photomontages of bodies, often suggesting a bit of sexual tension. In fact, the two photographers are in a single space emphasizing the overall show title of *Different Perspectives*.

When river scientist and pilot Brian Cluer first described his thoughts on his featured show, he said, "I have been thinking that my pieces represent temporary landscapes, ephemeral art, the intersection of fluid and solid, perhaps the ghosts of nature." With poetic flare he says, "When rivers sleep, intimate miniature landscapes form along the freezing banks. The water is in

transition from liquid to solid and back again, so I am calling this series *Transitions*." The images at right *Transitions VIII* (top) and *Transitions X* (bottom) illustrate what Brian terms "a wild range of patterns that form around rocks, fallen branches, and leaves." These intimate miniature landscapes were taken along a river bank in Idaho. They are a lovely portrait of nature at a particular and fleeting moment.



THE CURRENT SHOW

FEATURED ARTIST: ALEXIS GREENBERG



In her featured show, *Visual Rhymes*, Alexis Greenberg presents images from two projects where she worked with models creating individual scenes. The earlier black & white series, *Body Image Project*, was created in the darkroom. Selected images were placed side by side and were then photographed together to create a single image. Some element acts as a visual connector between the two components, as in *Untitled #1* (above).

More recent is her *Multiple Exposure Series* which superimposes one image over another. *Contemplation* (below) is an example. This series was accomplished in the computer, which enabled two images to be blended.

Whether titled or untitled, color or black & white, the result is a new “visual rhyme” to contemplate.



Images with people almost always imply a background story. However, Alexis leaves it to the viewer to create the story or conjure an interpretation of the resulting work, which she says is “something new that didn’t exist before.” The Second Saturday Art Walk would be a good time to view Alexis’s show.

FEATURED ARTIST: MICHELE ROSETT

It is fair to say “always” when mentioning Michele’s interest in art, since she versed herself in many mediums over decades. Many people know that she and her husband Hamish ran Mishi Apparel, offering natural-fiber clothing, for 20 years, with Michele as designer. Cancer brought that endeavor to a halt. Conquering that adversary, she turned to art again, this time the fine art of painting, initially concentrating on watercolors.

Ultimately, Michele turned to acrylics. “I wanted to work more intuitively. Interested in experimenting with texture, I started putting layers of acrylic paints and mediums on canvas and carving into them to expose the underpainting.” That transition led to ever more variety of techniques, leading ultimately to the stunning works presented in the current show, drawing upon paintings in her *Water’s Edge Series*, such as *Waterscape* (bottom), and a prior wildlife series, including *Wetlands* (top below).

Cuchina Paradiso in Petaluma has purchased Michele’s work, as has Sutter Hospital here and the Stanford Pediatrics ward in the Sutter



building in San Francisco.

Come see this lovely work for yourself! You will love it!



INTRODUCING, JANET MANUTA & ISABELLE TRUCHON

Janet Manuta is following in the footsteps of none other than Matisse himself. She says, “My hand-painted, cut-paper collages draw their inspiration from Matisse, who first used the technique of ‘drawing with scissors.’ I start with white sheets of paper and paint individual sheets with one or two colors. Every single shape, swirl, or squiggle has been individually cut out of these painted sheets.

“The assembling of each collage goes through many stages and revisions. I use both the positive and negative shapes. Some pieces overlap to create depth, while others are placed in a negative space for balance. This energetic balance of positive and negative space is created with organic shapes from nature.”

Janet adds, “I recently moved to Seattle from New York. My dog and I take long walks,



exploring the neighborhood. I was pleasantly surprised to see the abundance of wild poppies, which inspired me to create *Organic Balance* (left).”



She continues, “With the amazing array of wildflowers in the Pacific Northwest, I challenged myself with the monochromatic color palette of *She Said, ‘Only Pick the Pink Ones’* (left) after hiking in the Cascades where I discovered spectacular fields of flowers in colors and shapes unlike any I had seen on the East Coast.”

Look for Janet’s creative and expressive works during the current show.

Isabelle Truchon is showing works from her series *Wild * Free*. This show is a must-see for horse lovers. Isabelle says, “In 2017, I took a trip to the Camargue region in France to photograph and sketch these semi-feral, majestic animals that live in the salt marshes and wetlands of the Rhone Delta. I took thousands of photos! I also sketched and journaled, observing them in their natural environment.

“These horses are considered one of the oldest breeds and are known for their white coats, long manes, physical strength, and agility. They are an important element of the culture of the region. ‘Camargue cowboys’ ride these horses to herd cattle.”

Comparing the two images below, *In The Rhone Delta* (top) and *Night Gallop* (bottom), Isabelle’s ability to work both realistically as well as in a more impressionistic style is clear. Two of the paintings in Isabelle’s *Wild * Free* show are identified as mixed media instead of oil. Asked to clarify, Isabelle replied, “Mixed media entails a combination of inks, charcoal, or paint, and paper on wood or stretched canvas.”

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Continued from page 3. Mixed media painting *Onward* (below) by Isabelle Truchon.



Isabelle's oils and mixed media pieces span a range of sizes, with *In The Rhone Delta* (top right page 3) a diminutive 9 x 12 in size while *Onward* (above) is 18 x 72, which would make it a stunning focal point behind a sofa or above a mantel. Don't miss unusual works like this one.

WELCOME BACK, BILL!

Fans of Bill Pfeffer's style will be ecstatic to find that Bill has returned to Riverfront as an Invitational artist. True, this doesn't allow him to show as much work, but hey! we'll take what we can get.

As is clear from the images in the current show, *Bodega Beauty* (below left) and *Bodega Head* (below right), the Sonoma County landscape, not least the shore, is Bill's favorite subject. He has painted it large and also small enough to insert into antique clocks and other unusable relics to make them desirable again.

What is so widely admired is Bill's talent at

representing an entire landscape with minimal brush strokes. Yet, if the eye is observant, one sees a multiplicity of subtle shading. For example, in the rocks in *Bodega Beauty* and in the grasses as well.

It may take us a while, but eventually we come to understand that simplicity has its own elegance. These paintings successfully walk a fine line between reality and abstraction. So, seek out Bill's work when you visit the gallery and admire the elegance of simplicity in his work and appreciate the eye and the skill it takes to render complex landscapes in his signature manner.

