



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

FEATURED ARTISTS

Christine Kierstead
Isabelle Truchon

ARTIST TO NOTICE

Phyllis Calvin Thomas

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THE GALLERY'S EARLY SPRING SHOW MARCH 6 TO MAY 5, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION & SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
MARCH 9, 5:00 - 8:00

Musical Interludes by Half Bad Neighbor

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE MARCH 9TH RECEPTION

Christine Kierstead's Poetry at 6:00
Isabelle Truchon's Artist's Talk at 7:00

Two thoughtful women are featured in the Early Spring Show. They will each expand the depth of their exhibitions with words.

At 6:00, during the March 9 opening reception, Christine Kierstead will read three poems related to her featured show, *Words and Women*. She tells us, "One poem is about integrity, another about how fast the world is moving, and another, not done yet, likely will be about woman." Since poetry is words and words are part of the show theme, Christine says, if she has enough time, she may paint the poems onto canvas as part of the *Word* portion of the show.

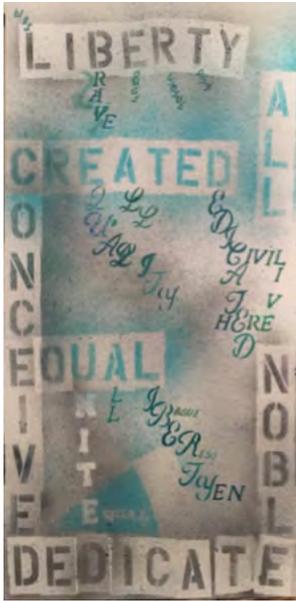
At 7:00, Isabelle Truchon will talk about her *Wild Free* show, which presents the tourist-attracting, culturally-iconic, semi-wild horses of the Camargue region of France. She says, "My talk will be about The Camargue, my experiences, the paintings, and the introspection resulting from these." She will, of course, respond to questions afterwards.

Isabelle's horse paintings have been exhibited at several locales from Virginia to California. And the Camargue horses are not her only interests—she has also spent time hoping to document the wild horses that still roam portions of the West—although those horses will not be part of this exhibition. Perhaps at some future date? Horse lovers take note.

We encourage you to see these two special shows, hear what the artists have to say, and enjoy a fine evening. The opening reception will also have good, toe-tapping music provided by our frequent musical supporters—*Half Bad Neighbor!*

FEATURED ARTIST PAINTER CHRISTINE KIERSTEAD

Christine Kierstead is a painter whose work often embodies social commentary, like her series on cultural objects lost through change or her series on animals in local shelters. A new series titled *Words and Women* makes up her



featured show. She says, "In a broader context, the show is all about words and how important they are in our democracy, creativity, communication, and to our human brain, as opposed to smart phones and automation just deciphering letters."

For example, *America* (left) contains Lincoln's words from the Gettysburg address. Christine says, "I hope the viewer, perhaps with

coffee in hand, will sit down and be guided into thinking by the words in the paintings. The paintings help balance out the world of non-thinking. Computers, phones that seem to do the thinking for us are a deception. There is no thought in their process. You have to be a human being to figure out the meanings in these word paintings. It's not something a robot or any upcoming forms of Artificial Intelligence can decipher."

Christine also feels that technology is causing us to misuse "the power and beauty of words and of language, possibly losing or abandoning it." Direct personal communication is also being



affected, as she suggests in her nostalgic collage *Letters* (left).

Christine ends her

emails with a humorous yet pithy quotation from Max Frisch's novel *Homo Faber*: "Technology... the knack of so arranging the world that we need not experience it."

As to the *Women* portion of the show, Christine explains, "I recognize the power of women in conceiving and conveying ideas and in maintaining, fostering, and feeding those ideas in order to construct a culture and community.

I recognize the archetype of the female to create life and to nourish and empower that life. The thread is conception, nourishment, and maintenance, which is what language and words do for a culture and therefore a nation. And it's what woman do for a child and a family. I recognize the significance of the matriarchal role in a culture."



Of *Sweet Muse* (above), Christine says it celebrates creativity of all kinds from the biological creativity of forming a new human through birth to the structuring of a painting or developing new ideas. *Here We Come* (below) was without title for a long time, but Christine now sees it as representing "the resurrection and arrival of the female deity in human form and in all colors."



FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER ISABELLE TRUCHON



We introduced Isabelle Truchon in the February newsletter with her *Wild * Free* painting of the semi-wild horses of the Camargue area in France. Isabelle's debut was so successful that, much to our delight, she has agreed to be a featured artist for the gallery's Early Spring show. She will expand her offerings and continue the theme.

Isabelle tells us, "The original collection was first exhibited in May, 2018, in northern Virginia and featured 62 original paintings, 28 of which have sold thus far. I will be showcasing additional sketches and drawings with a selection of paintings in my featured show at Riverfront. I also have available three books, no text, of original drawings, created on paper,



treated with gesso, drawn with charcoal, and painted with ink."

Isabelle comments, "Using texture, many layers of subtle color, and sometimes bits of organic matter is my humble attempt at recreating nature's subtle patterns. The goal is fostering harmony with the everyday and universal aspects of life."

She continues, "Exploring themes on the social human experience through organic elements, nature, and living beings are an instinctual essence of my work, since my own life is a web of experiences interwoven through relationships.

"Horses and other animals, with all their equity and in their natural surroundings provide a wonderful framework of exploration for provoking themes surrounding resurrection, rebirth, death, equity, humility, respect, suffering, and love."



The paintings in the show, like *Water Lilies I* (top left), *Spirit II* (bottom left) and *Synergy* (above) are all done in neutral tones, giving them the timeless feel of old black and white or sepia prints. The entire show is oil on canvas, ranging in size from 16 x 20 to 72 x 72—magnificent focal points for any room.

Whether or not you are a horse lover, you will want to see Isabelle's remaining collection of the Camargue horses. Her work is compelling.

ARTIST TO NOTICE

Landscape painter Phyllis Calvin Thomas works exclusively with oils. She is known for her lively, bold color and thick “impasto” texture, created by her palette knife technique. She learned to paint quickly and decisively as a plein air painter, and with the joy that painting in nature brings.

Phyllis comments on the image below, saying, “*Greenstring Farms-Springtime* dances with exuberance that painting Spring blossoms brings to the plein air painter! This is a favorite



location for Petalumans to buy fresh, organic farm produce. It is also a favorite for plein air painters in every season.”

In *Soft Morning Light* the mood changes subtly. Phyllis says, “This painting highlights the unique winter colors of our Northern California landscape. Thickly textured paint defines the sky and the green hills. This little painting is from a location on San Antonio Road.”

Phyllis creates beautiful, small, elegantly-framed paintings that will visually bless any place they hang.



Continuing our Featured Show Artists: Christine Kierstead and Isabelle Truchon

While both of our featured artists often are more realistic in their works, the two paintings here emphasize the range of representation each brings to their portfolio. Below are Christine’s *Here We Are* (left) and Isabelle’s *Three* (right).

