



NEWSLETTER

THE GALLERY'S EARLY FALL SHOW
SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION AND SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
SEPTEMBER 14, 5:00 - 8:00
Musical Interludes by Kate Magdalena

SEPTEMBER 2019

CELEBRATING OUR
12TH ANNIVERSARY

FEATURED ARTISTS

Jerrie Jerné
Karen Spratt

INTRODUCING

Santana Star

FALL-WINTER
PHOTOGRAPHY
WORKSHOPS

* *

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*Celebrating Our
12th Anniversary!*



*You Are Invited!
Saturday, September 14, 5 to 8*

*Riverfront Art Gallery
132 Petaluma Boulevard North*

Petaluma



Do Come!

FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER KAREN SPRATT
Featured Show: *Whimsy*

Karen Spratt has quite a following. One thing her aficionados appreciate is the subtle humor that often is detectable in her work. However, it is up to the observer to grasp that element.

Karen says, "People often comment that my paintings are funny and, yes, many of them are. But the truth is, I feel like I've always held back from completely letting the whimsy loose. With this show I decided to just let the whimsy out. I'm painting the images, no matter how weird and silly, because it makes me happy."

She continues, "Often times the whimsy is in the title, and, if it isn't obvious, the painting becomes less interesting. In my old age, I'm getting to the point where I'm more confident that people will get my humor. Someone has already asked me why I didn't paint water coming out of the shower head in *Bathing Beauties* (below)."

Karen has an answer for that question. She explains, "In *Bathing Beauties* the beauties are carefree, yet modest, ladies of another era. The faucet apparatus of Victorian tubs had always made me think of a telephone, so one of the ladies is enjoying a conversation. With whom or about what, I don't know."

Asked about *Butterfly Chair* (below), Karen replied, "This composition floated around in my

head for a long time. My early idea was to cover the chair with the Monarch butterflies like they are when they gather in the trees. What a daunting task! When I finally came to realize that 3 butterflies would also allow the chair to speak, I could put it on canvas. The name 'butterfly chair' takes me back to my early days. Do people still call them that?" Yes, they do. Wikipedia says so.

In both of these paintings, Karen has recalled prior paintings, such as the tub with the Hokusai wave. Tubs make an amusing setting for the subject to occupy, and here has allowed her to play on the dual meaning of "bathing." Then there is her series juxtaposing natural beauty with manmade objects, which *Butterfly Chair* recalls.

Karen has seven new paintings in her *Whimsy* show. What might she come up with next?

There is a saying, "Expect the Unexpected." That is so true with Karen Spratt, with her paintings, and with this featured show. Do come, and bring your smile.



Butterfly Chair detail.



FEATURED ARTIST: PAINTER JERRIE JERNÉ
Featured Show: *Would You Believe?*

Free-wheeling. Spontaneous. Those words possibly give you all you really need to know when it comes to Jerrie Jerné's paintings and drawings. Little, if anything, is planned beforehand and her approach can change in an instant or at least from piece to piece.

For example, with *Pure Joy* (top below) Jerrie daubed paint directly onto the canvas. When she does that she uses a variety of tools to create texture and to drag the paint hither and yon. Hmm. How about a spot here and a dot there? Maybe a curlicue.....



Jerrie has also used the dry brush technique, which, due to the dryness of the brush, yields



strokes that have a scratchy, raw look unlike the smoother result when the brush itself is wet.

You can see this effect in *The Climb* (below left). This piece is perhaps a metaphor for facing a rock wall—or any challenge. In places, there are ladder effects. Jerrie says it wasn't planned, but, once there, they suggested choices. How far up will you climb? How much effort are you willing to put into conquering the problem?

Then, of course, there are Jerrie's geometrics, such as *Dancing Triangles* (below). True, triangles and lines aren't freewheeling and don't suggest spontaneity—but the placement and size-shifting of those elements certainly implies both movement and spontaneity, giving the piece an interesting internal contrast.



Through just the examples presented here, it is obvious there will be considerable diversity of method and color scheme in Jerrie's show, titled *Would You Believe?* We will have more to discuss in the October newsletter.

In the meantime, do come in and talk to Jerrie during our 12th anniversary reception. As co-owners of Riverfront Jerrie Morago (Jerné is her artist name) and Lance Kuehne will be delighted to speak with you and to know that you attend gallery events and appreciate the value it has added to the community. See you then!

INTRODUCING PAINTER SANTANA STAR

Santana Star has established her own style. If there is a comparison, it might be with French Fauvism and German Expressionism in the early 1900s, with their emphasis on vivid colors. Henri Matisse and Franz Marc would certainly approve of her style, seen in *Sacred Land* (below right) and especially as in *Arroyo Seco* (below).

Like Marc, Santana loves and is deeply inspired by Nature. When roaming the outdoors, she takes photos of inspiring scenes for later use in the studio. She says, "I start painting from the photos, but a mysterious thing happens. The painting takes on a life and will of its own. The colors become enhanced and the original photo is lost in the beauty of the painting."

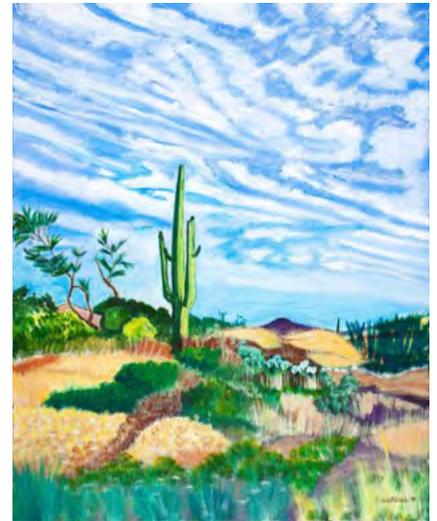


She continues, "The most important elements in any scene are the things that give it visual interest—the contrast between lights and darks, rough and smooth textures, large and small shapes and forms. My work has bold, vibrant colors and shapes, which simultaneously capture a moment of serenity and stillness. My overlay of textures and shapes conveys the feeling of the place which inspired me to paint its beauty and spirit. I know a painting has succeeded when the images, shapes, and colors, flow beautifully and when others appreciate its beauty."

In summary, Santana says. "My intension is to paint beauty.

I want my paintings to have a positive, uplifting affect on all who see them."

Santana is only showing these two paintings, so be sure to seek them out. They deserve a closer look.



LANCE KUEHNE'S FALL & WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Gallery co-owner Lance Kuehne regularly gives photography workshops, including afternoon outings, weekend workshops, photo tours, and custom workshops to meet personal instructional needs. Upcoming workshops include:

- ~Point Reyes & West Marin, Sunday, September 8, 1:00 to 7:00
- ~Bowling Ball Beach & Point Arena, Saturday, September 28, 11:00 to 8:00
- ~Yosemite & Eastern Sierra, Monday-Friday, September 30 - October 4
- ~Fall Weekend in Yosemite, Friday-Sunday, October 25-27
- ~Early Fall in Wine Country, Saturday, November 2, 12:00 to 6:30
- ~Fall in Wine Country, Sunday, November 10, 11:00 to 5:30
- ~Late Fall in Wine Country, Saturday, November 16, 11:00 to 5:30
- ~Sonoma Backroads, Saturday, December 7, 11:00 TO 5:30
- ~Death Valley & Highway 395, Saturday-Friday, January 18-24

For additional information and to register, please go to Lance's website: www.lancekuehne.com and select Workshops.