



The Creative Edge

VALLEY ARTISTS GUILD

Volume I

Issue 5

October 2011

Pacific Standard Time Celebrates Art in Southern California

by Karen Robbins, Editor

More than 60 cultural institutions across Southern California celebrate the L.A. art movement from 1945 to 1980. Over 30 exhibits open this month, including:

The Alchemy of June Schwarcz: Enamel Vessels from the Forrest L. Merrill Collection. Expressionist sculptural metalworks by a legendary enamelist recognized as a Living Treasure of California. Along with enameling, Schwarcz, 92, pleats, sews, pierces, and hammers to produce complex and intricate pieces. Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM), Los Angeles, 323-937-4230.



California Design, 1930-1965: Living in a Modern Way. First major study of California design showcasing furniture, ceramics, metalwork, graphic and industrial design, film, textiles, and fashion. LACMA, Los Angeles, 323-857-6000.

Celebrating Pacific Standard Time: 1945-1980 at the Galleries of American Jewish University. Showcases the work of 18 Jewish artists including William Brice, Judy Chicago, Max Finkelshtein, Michael Frimkess, Baila Goldenthal, Julius Shulman, and June Wayne. AJU Platt and Borstein Galleries, Bel Air, 310-476-9777.

The House That Sam Built: Sam Maloof and Art in the Pomona Valley, 1945-1985. Showcases classic examples of Maloof's work as leader of the American studio furniture movement that favored the aesthetics of craft and the handmade over the

continued page 4

Calendar

Board Meeting . . . Wednesday, October 12
7 p.m., location TBD

The Getty Center Museum
Visit . . . Sunday, October 16
11 a.m.–2 p.m., West Los Angeles

Encino Terrace Center
Exhibit . . . November 7–February 3
15821 Ventura Blvd., Encino

Painting Workshop with Rick Rotante . . . Sunday, November 13
Granada Pavilion, Granada Hills

General Meeting . . . Tuesday, November 15
Presentation: John Paul Thornton
7 p.m., \$7 members, \$8 guests; Encino
Community Ctr., 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino

In This Issue

President's Message	2
Board of Directors	2
Member News	3
Getty Trip	3
Rick Rotante Workshop	3
Opinion	4
Sponsor Services	5
Exhibit Opportunity	6
Mini-Show Winners	6

**Rick Rotante
workshop enrollment
now open! See pg. 3.**

VAG Board Members

President

John Paul Thornton818-378-8381

Vice President

Barbara E. Jones818-346-2704

Secretary

Norm Beal818-344-9241

Treasurer

Trice Tolle818-345-1671

Communications Chair

Lisa August818-882-8517

Correspondence Chair

Marie Thomas818-986-7956

Exhibit Chair

Donna Geist Buch818-998-7904

Exhibit Committee

Norm Beal818-344-9241

Ken Ronney818-996-1630

Exhibit Location Co-Chairs

Shula Singer Arbel323-876-5422

Joy J. Rotblatt323-651-5918

Small Group Exhibit Location Co-Chairs

Rita Hamilton323-855-3510

Ken Ronney818-996-1630

Teri Starkweather818-702-8698

Hospitality Chair

Barbara Schwartz818-884-1324

Mailing Chair

Dorothy Shepherd818-353-0129

Membership Chair

Ken Ronney818-996-1630

Newsletter Liaison

Cat Van Der Heiden818-773-9187

Newsletter Proofreading Chair

Donna Rogers818-995-7614

Photographer

Veronica Stensby818-342-2554

Program Chair

John Paul Thornton818-378-8381

Publicity Chair

Barbara E. Jones818-346-2704

VIVA Representative

Norm Beal818-344-9241

Members at Large

Debra Hintz, Loel Jurado, Scott Kiche, Terry Romero Paul

Newsletter Editor

Karen Robbins

President's Message

What is Your Passion?

What drives you as an artist? What's your passion? What fascinates you?

Some visual artists crave travel. Romantic painter Eugene Delecroix found his voice only when he left the gray climate of Paris, to paint in the distant Muslim world of Tangiers. He was awakened to the color and cultures of Morocco, and spent his life recreating memories of his fantastic adventures amidst wild desert horsemen and sensual harems.

Then there is Andrew Wyeth, whose greatest inspiration came from his next door neighbors. He spent over thirty years painting the structures, fields, and inhabitants of the Kuerner farm in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, his home town.

What of personal experience? No one could depict the ballet in art like Edgar Degas. Yet it is said that only once did he actually visit the opera backstage for inspiration. His famous pastels were created in his studio, from memory, or were drawn from studio models posing in borrowed tutus. His true challenge came when his eyesight was failing and, unable to see the colors of his paint, he turned to sculpting his dancers. By feeling the wet clay, Degas could continue on as a great artist. What of the limitations of illness? Even though he was deaf and exiled from his home country of Spain, Francisco Goya created his powerful "black paintings" on the walls of his own dining room. They were carefully removed and now hang in Madrid's Prado Museum.

Claude Monet's almost-total blindness never stopped him from painting in his garden. In fact, his resulting overly-bright colors, which he had to exaggerate in order to even see, influenced the next generation of young painters: Matisse and the Fauves. (How ironic that a wild youth movement in painting was actually influenced by visual degeneration brought on by old age!)

What of rejection? French sculptor August Rodin was commissioned to create a simple set of bronze doors for the Institute of France. He went way overboard, encrusting the frame of the portal with dozens of tortured nude figures until the doors wouldn't even close! The Institute rejected the results. Rodin cancelled the commission, keeping the doors and turning them into his masterpiece



continued page 3

Members Are... On Display

Shula Singer Arbel's series *Women with Attitudes* will be featured at The Coffee Fix, 12508 Moorpark Street, Studio City, from September 25–November 6, with an artists' reception on October 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. The 20-painting series explores the expressive female figure and psyche through multilayered, mixed-media paintings.

Dorothy Shepherd has been juried into the Glendale Art Association's First Annual Juried Art Show, October 1–30 with an artists' reception October 8 at White's Framing and Restoration in Montrose. One of her landscapes has been juried into *Art 100: LMU Alumni Artists* at Loyola Marymount University's Laband Gallery in Westchester, on display through November 18. Dorothy also had works in Towns Burr Gallery's recent *Small Wonders* show, and had two paintings on display at the Artists Alley Galley in San Francisco.

Is your work on display? Are you part of an event? We want to know! Send us your most current information, preferably upcoming exhibits and events that VAG members will be able to attend once they read your notice in this column. Priority goes to items that are upcoming or currently on display, but news of very recent exhibits and awards may be published if space permits. Contact VAG newsletter liaison Cat Van Der Heiden for details and requirements at cvanderheiden@att.net.

To let go in one's art is to let go in one's life.

—*Nick Bantock*

President's message, continued from page 2

The Gates of Hell. From the figures in the design came ideas and models for many of his future masterpieces.

In Hindu art, there are many images depicting Ganesh, who is a deity with a round human body but with the oversized head of an elephant. Ganesh is revered as the deity who overcomes obstacles, and he is often shown accompanied by a little mouse or a shrew.

This little creature is Ganesh's vehicle. The mouse symbolizes how stealthily and effortlessly the deity is able to maneuver. It is implied that just as a mouse can get through small spaces and zip to its destination, so can Ganesh. He is completed by these qualities, even though he is large and cumbersome.

In a real way, art is your vehicle. Art symbolizes the enhanced qualities that you yourself require to accomplish your calling in life.

—John Paul Thornton

Meet up with VAG at the Getty

Don't forget to join fellow VAG members at the Getty Center Museum on Sunday, October 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On display will be special exhibits of photographs; British master watercolors and drawings, including recent David Hockney works; and the work of Spanish court sculptor Luisa Roldàn.

Plan to meet at the top tram station at 11 o'clock sharp. 1200 Getty Center Drive in West Los Angeles. Access is from north Sepulveda Boulevard only, and remember to check traffic information regarding surrounding 405 freeway ramp, street, and bridge closures. For more information, see <http://www.getty.edu>.

Sign Up Now for Rick Rotante Painting Workshop

Make plans to join us for this one-day workshop, *Making a Painting from Start to Finish*, led by painter Rick Rotante.

The workshop is being held on Sunday, November 13, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Granada Pavillion, 11128 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, California 91344. The fee is \$35 for VAG members, \$50 for non-members.

Attendees may choose to work in oil or acrylic or pencil and/or charcoal. Complete information is available on the downloadable PDF flyer and registration form at www.valleyartistsguild.org/workshops/VAG-Painting-Workshop-Rick-Rotante.pdf.

Space is limited and filling up fast, so enroll now!

Pacific Standard Time, contd. from page 1
 machine and mass-production, alongside 80 works by his friends and colleagues. Huntington Library, San Marino, 626-405-2100.

Indoor Ecologies: Evolution of the Eames House Living Room. Built in 1949 as Case Study House number 8, it was an experiment in materials, technology, and living that came to define the post-World War II era. Recreates several early settings. Eames House, Pacific Palisades, 310-459-9663.

Peace Press Graphics 1967-1987: Art in the Pursuit of Social Change. Showcases visual and cultural history through posters of feminist causes, workers' rights, civil liberties, environment, and anti-nuclear/anti-war movements. University Art Museum, CSU Long Beach, 562-985-5761.

Proof: The Rise of Printmaking in Southern California. Explores significance of printmaking and new possibilities envisioned in post-war Southern California. Focus on Tamarind workshop, local artists, and those who came to L.A. specifically to print, including Francis, Moses, Ruscha, Albers, Mullican, Nevelson, Oldenburg, and Rauschenberg. Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, 626-449-6840.

Under the Big Black Sun: California Art 1974-1981. Surveys the diversity of art practice in the mid-to-late 1970s through 125 artists working in a wide array of mediums and styles. Demonstrates how loss of faith in government and institutional authority yielded artistic freedom and experimentation that reached its apex in California. Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, 213-626-6222.

For more information on all the exhibits and events, see www.pacificstandardtime.org.

Opinion

Speak Out for Artistic Expression

by Norm Beal

A small publication such as this, directed toward a local art group, may not be one's first choice for political commentary. In truth, many of the participants in VAG activities derive satisfaction mainly from the rewards presented by the fellowship, as a resource for self-expression, or the means of advancing in a chosen art form. Nevertheless, an underlying function of art in human society is more significant. Throughout history the arts have been a constant in measuring the level of freedom that the people within a social group may enjoy.

To determine this, one must not merely look at those regarded as artistic icons but also consider the freedom of the citizens, not only to express themselves but to have access to the means and education to do so. The creative impulse, which drives visual art, began as a religious experience. It continues to do this as epitomized in such societies as the Australian Aborigine, which recognizes the role of humans in the universe as maintainers of the spirits of all other life forms through the act of creating art. Who are we to question this logic?

Another vital role art plays, particularly in Western society, is that of social commentary. This goes at least as far back as Homer and is the political aspect of the arts. Today it is growing increasingly important as humanity becomes exponentially globalized.

The arts continually present demagogues with one of the greatest foes, for art is an action that can be accomplished by anyone. The suppression of free speech is a primary but not always obvious instrument of tyrants. Silencing the arts can be insidious, effected under a variety of guises. It can be through censorship, cuts in education, in the name of budget demands, or simply by trivialization.

Democracy is a participatory activity, demanding a level of attention by each individual. Artists have the unique ability to fulfill their obligations in a free society through the exercise of their creative impulse to speak out when free expression is under attack.

Painting is the principal intellectual discourse.

—Leonardo da Vinci

• SPONSOR SERVICES • SPONSOR SERVICES • SPONSOR SERVICES •



FULL SERVICE PHOTO LAB
TRUSTED BY PROFESSIONALS
www.advancedphotolab.net

Paul Mashay Digital Art Copy
Giclee Prints

818-347-4686
21831 Sherman Way, Canoga Park, CA 91303



CHRIS HAUSER
STORE MANAGER

(323) 877-5050
(818) 763-5050
(818) 984-1050
FAX (818) 763-1034

5308 LAUREL CANYON BLVD., N. HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 91607
(BETWEEN MAGNOLIA AND CHANDLER)
WWW.CARTERSEXTON.COM

CONTINENTAL ART SUPPLIES

7041 Reseda Boulevard, Reseda, California 91335
818-345-1044 Phone • 818-345-0976 FAX
www.continentalart.com

Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Jerry & Judy Koenig
Giclée Reproductions
Digital Fine Art Printmaking

805-526-9978 • JKoenigart@aol.com



Custom Framing • Fine Art Giclée Printing • Fine Wall Décor

7700 Gloria Avenue • Van Nuys, CA • 91406
800-280-0219 • www.monarchframe.com



Linda Wehrl
Owner / Instructor
Valley Glen Studio

www.pastimesinc.com
Linda@pastimesinc.com
818.766.0614

Reach over 150 VAG member artists, and their colleagues, friends, and associates, by promoting your creative products and services here! It's easy and inexpensive. Contact Trice Tolle at 818-345-1671 or tricetolle@aol.com.

Submit to *The Creative Edge*

Do you have news? Do you like to write? Submit articles to *The Creative Edge*! You can write a review of an art book or exhibit; a how-to article about an art technique, method, or material; art resources; or a piece about a well-known (or not-so-well-known) artist.

Maybe you're unsure about writing but have some good ideas for articles--we'd love to hear them. Where

do you find artistic inspiration? Has another VAG member inspired you? Tell us about it!

The next deadline is **November 8** for the December issue. Send your submissions to VAG newsletter liaison Cat Van Der Heiden at cvanderheiden@att.net. Let her know if you'd like to take on a writing assignment. Or contact her with your ideas and questions.

The Creative Edge is your newsletter, and only you can make it happen.

Mini-Show Winners



Congratulations to the winners of the September mini-show. Left to right: Toby Salkin, third place; Carole Tator, first place; Antonio Pelayo, second place.

Exhibit Opportunity

VAG member and Valley Watercolor Society president Dori Marler is looking for artists who are interested in showing their work at The Coffee Fix Café.

This neighborhood gathering spot is more than a coffee house. Consider it coffee-plus: yummy sandwiches and snacks, British flair, free wi-fi, an occasional comedy or music performance, and weekly storytelling. Situated across from the Studio City branch library on Moorpark Street at Whitsett Avenue, its walls feature art by local artists and photographers.

If you're interested in seeing your work hang in this shop, contact Dori at dorimarler@yahoo.com. She'll have all the information you need to know and will work with you and the shop owner.