



## Making Your Favorite Room Exceptional

Whether our living space is large or small, we usually have one room in our home that we spend more time in than others. It might be where we read, eat or watch a movie, but there's usually something about it that makes it special to us. Sometimes we don't even "see" our room anymore; we just like to be there. So take a look around. Is it still visually appealing or has it started to look a little ragged around the edges?

Asked for her ideas on the current thinking on design strategies that delight the spirit, interior designer Nanette Gordon says you first need to ask yourself what the function of your space is. What do you value and what do you want in that room? She says we don't usually have the opportunity to freshen up our spaces very often, so it's important to set the stage with a minimum of cost. Following are some key elements she wants a room or living area to contain in order to bring it to life:



**Color** Paint is a fast and inexpensive way to update your space. Popular color palettes change often and drive the world of fashion and home

furnishings. Because certain colors often pinpoint a particular time period, Nanette leans towards using a very neutral palette and adds splashes of color through the use of fabric, art and flowers. Currently there's been a movement towards taupes, grays and whites as a base. It's then very easy to add accent colors using other elements.

**Lighting** Lighting can make or break a room. Rooms with natural light are preferable. However, by the end of the day, all rooms need to have additional lighting to keep the room inviting. Light fixtures can be very high end, but she finds there are great knock offs to be had at places like West Elm or even IKEA. These lights are often low wattage, so be thoughtful about your investment and look for a good buy on a great overhead, floor or table lamp. Although the designer believes we live in an era where vintage and antique can be combined with modern, this is one area where she prefers to keep the style mostly in line with other pieces.

Nanette says that when she was in her early 20's and heard a presentation on dressing for success, she was told to invest in a good belt, shoes and handbag. You could fake the rest of the outfit but would still look well-dressed. She feels the same way about a room – invest in lighting, art and personal collections.

**One Unique Piece** If the budget allows, have one fabulously unique piece of furniture or art in your room. This is when you can choose a one-of-a-kind chair, sculpture, painting or wonderful lamp. With this great basic you will get something that makes you happy every time you see it.

**Textures and Fabrics** A quick way to establish your space as interesting and comfortable, is to have fun with multiple textures. Combining lush fabrics with multiple textures alongside metals and wood is a good way to do this. Stay away from matching everything - eclectic is the hot word in design – so go ahead and mix and match. Add new pillows, a new carpet or update the dining room chairs or window coverings. Here is where you can have fun with color. Some clients have pillow covers made which they swap out seasonally. Pottery Barn and West Elm have made this very doable. Check the sales and have fun. Spending a little more on high end fabric (usually through a designer) can make your entire room look unique and bring a beautiful aesthetic to a room.

**Art** One of the most important items in the home is your art. Everyone gets a kick out of an art poster hung at Art on Main that says, “Art Doesn’t Have 2 Match the Couch.” And it doesn’t. But it’s still true that art can make or break a space if it doesn’t complement its surroundings. A good rule of thumb is just to lean towards what you love. If you are called to certain colors or styles, it can often dictate the direction for the rest of the house.

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*“...add splashes of color through the use of fabric, art and flowers.”*

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“I am currently working with a client who is decorating her entire living room around a piece of art. This client happens to be an art dealer, but it has taken her many years to invest in her home, and the furniture is to be a neutral, sophisticated palette around a bright modern art piece she has fallen in love with.” Get to know what you like and what you would love to see day in and day out.

**Personal Touch** All said and done, a room must be personalized. A house becomes a home when it represents the personal taste of the owner. Display your passion with accessories. Whether you have help with your space or not, use items from your travels, photography of your favorite locations in the world, or best of all, family heirlooms that can be incorporated into your space in a stylish, personal way. And don’t forget the most important personal touch of all, your favorite books and flowers. Always! <http://www.nanettedesign.com> ❖

*The following section of the Museletter is dedicated to the colorful palette of artists housed at Art On Main. All of our artists are thoughtfully juried into the gallery, so our patrons can be assured of the quality, originality and professionalism of the art work.*



Copyright © 2013 Therese & Steve May

## **Therese and Steve May**

Entering the front door of the gallery, one cannot miss the beautifully textured and colorful weavings by artists Therese and Steve May. Their collaboration began fourteen years ago

when the couple was given their first loom. Excited to begin exploring cloth-making, they were soon creating wall art, table runners, rugs and scarves. Steve manages the mathematical details while Therese focuses on color, warping the looms and weaving.

The duo enjoys the challenge of design and choice of fiber, as well as the feel of the textiles and the meditative quality the weaving rhythm offers. You’ll find them visiting yarn stores whenever they travel because being able to see and touch the lovely textiles for a given project is fun and provides inspiration. Steve’s favorite tools are the bobbin shuttles - the holders that carry the thread across the loom. With a background in woodworking, he enjoys the feel and craftsmanship of the shuttle as he weaves, adding to the pleasure of the weaving rhythm. By contrast, Therese’s favorite tools are her color wheels. She got her foundation in color theory at Gail Harker Studios in Washington, as well as from a book on color by Steven Quiller. Currently they have three floor looms, each loaded with different projects.



Apart from their work, Therese and Steve have many interests and maintain an active lifestyle; Steve plays volleyball

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and Therese enjoys yoga. It is surprising to learn that this youthful couple has six children between them - and eleven grandchildren! Having found each other later in life, they are committed to their family and have stayed busy enjoying good, healthy food, friends and community.

Living near Murphys, the couple enjoys their life and art. They share their knowledge of weaving in the local schools and with their grandchildren. They appreciate a variety of art and listen to a wide array of music, from rock to jazz to pop, especially when they work. Therese says it moves her in a fun, emotional and a spiritual way. Having recently celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary, and sharing a love of Marie Gabrielle's watercolors, they purchased a fourth work of hers, a giclée called Redwood Path. Her work depicting sunflowers, the California Big Sur Coast, plus their new addition, grace their walls and are considered their favorites. ❖



### Susan King

Murphys artist Susan King, is passionate about art. That passion comes through in many ways, but particularly in her watercolor, collage and botanical paintings, something she's been able to focus on since her recent retirement. Many locals know Sue, but many may be surprised to know she

spent her career teaching pre-first grade students as an early childhood education teacher. She continues to be committed to the art enrichment of the children in the community, as well as her granddaughters, but now is also able to spend time creating her own art and learning ways to express herself in the art world. She gives credit to Art on Main, the support of Jill Figler (her instructor of eight years) and her many friends in the arts for contributing to her dream.

The natural world has become the predominant inspiration for Sue's paintings. She has been an award-winning artist at the annual Ironstone Vineyards Obsession art show.

Sue's strong compositional skills not only highlight her art works, but also underline her talent as display director for Art on Main. She says

it warms her heart when she sees that part of her art life is also an ongoing reflection of her father's life-long work in display. As they say, sometimes the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Like many artists, Sue has her own collection which she likes to move around her home on a regular basis. It gives her satisfaction to view her treasures anew. Asked about her favorites, she mentions two. One is a sculpture of a crow done by artist, Marta Magistrali. She says it is haunting. Each time her eye settles on the bird it reminds her of how critical listening plays out throughout life. There is something about the position of the animal that intrigues her - and she finds the texturing of the wing feathers both rough and soft at the same time. One of her first purchases, and another favorite, by member artist Karen O'Neill, is of a pair of koi. In it, the artist captures the essence of the 'saturated wet process' of watercolor, a technique taught by renowned artist Cheng-Khee Chee. It hangs in a place of honor in the bathroom, at the moment, where she can continue to enjoy and study it each day, believing it rivals the work of the teacher himself.



In addition to Art on Main, Susan's work can be found at The Magnolia Café in Murphys. ❖



### Ruth Morrow

An accomplished painter, whose unique work resonates with so many, Ruth Morrow has spent the last 28 years painting and photographing the Mother Lode. Her imaginative painting style is visible in her watercolor, acrylic, oil and mixed media pieces and her numerous awards point to her virtuosity.

Delving into her multitude of life experiences, one can see how deeply they've contributed to her whimsical and poetic paintings. Starting in childhood, when Ruth's romance with art began, she

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was a child actress in the Los Angeles area where she was cast in episodes of the classic television series, *The Thin Man*, as well as the long-running *Lassie* series. In high school Ruth worked at the local "Five and Dime" variety store, started her own gift shop when she was 18 with things that she made, and also worked as a ceramics decorator.



This venturesome artist went on to sell her art at the highly acclaimed Laguna Beach Festival of the Arts, a juried showcase for artists for over 80 years. It was there and at the Sawdust Festival, as well as at street shows throughout California, that Ruth honed her skills and developed a captivat-

ing personal style that continues today.

After moving to the Sierra Foothills (and further pointing to Ruth's openness to experience), she ran the golfer's snack shack at Sequoia Woods Country Club, worked at Meadowmont Fitness

Club, and taught aerobics to boot. Many people will also know her from 17 years working in the Chatom Vineyards Tasting Room.

"It is never silent in the studio," says the artist. It all depends on what she's painting as to whether she's listening to the tenors, Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli, or to country music by the likes of Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, or the Judds. For jazzy times, she likes Tony Bennett and Chris Botti on the trumpet, Harry Belafonte's calypso and Elvis' gospel.

Among Ruth's accomplishments are winning the Ironstone Winery's "Spring Obsession" art contest twice and having her work accepted into the PBS station KVIE Art Auction for the past ten years. She has also been presented with awards at the Mother Lode Art Show, the Calaveras County Fair professional division, the Mondavi Art Show in Lodi and the Sacramento Fine Arts Gallery. Without question, this artist's life is an adventure and her world has shaped the art she's always embraced. ❖

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### Change of Art

We regularly change the art in the gallery. Our next rotation is May 4, 2016, so please stop in and see our new work. And when you do come in to visit the gallery, be sure to fill out a card at the front desk and get the opportunity to win a \$50 gift certificate. We pick a card from the bowl every time we change our art work. It could be yours! ❖

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Dereen DeSchryver of Mokelumne Hill, California, the winner of our January drawing. She wins a \$50 Art on Main gift certificate. ❖

### Gallery Artists Include:

Jan Alcalde, Marianna Bologna, Marlene Bradford, Kathleen Canning, Sarah Evans, Annie Fountain, Carol Goff, Christine Halley, Carole Kamerlink, Ron Kamerlink, Susan King, Jane Lucas, Charlotte Mahood, Therese & Steve May, Judy Morgan, Ruth Morrow, Karen O'Neill, Bambi Papais, Duane Papais, Donna Perkins, Marilyn Richards, Helen Scofield, Lori Sturdivant, Sarah Switek, Joani Taylor, Martha Wallace, Vienna Watkins, Larry D. White, and Shirley Wilson-Rose. ❖

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# ART ON MAIN

a community of artists

466-B Main Street • Murphys, CA • 209-728-1888  
www.artonmainmurphys.com

The *Museletter* is produced by the following members of Art on Main gallery.  
Copy Editor: **Marian Swanson** • Managing Editor/Writer: **Annie Fountain** • Graphics: **Karen O'Neill**

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