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I'm A Pusher

by Kelly Sullivan

John Adams said, "I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study



mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain." The "right" to study painting... I believe that the arts are a right, a basic human

right, and that they are one of the most powerful tools we possess to influence a population. We are fortunate to have the freedom to pursue this right, and it's our responsibility to employ it, or we may wind up studying war all over again, so that we can get back to our right to study art. To John Adams this was a calculated progression of steps. He knew that a society that studies more art, will have less need to study war.

I believe that art is the fourth basic human need; it follows water, food, and shelter. And if our civilization put it in that order, we would all have a better ability to prosper, peacefully.

There is a belief in many parts of the world, including our educational system in the U.S., that the importance of art is secondary to things like math and science, contrary to the many studies proving that it is the arts that are so very effective at developing the kinds of critical thinking skills that allow us to absorb complicated math or make scientific discoveries.

The arts force us to take something that exists only in our imagination - a concept and idea - and by combining the creativity of the right brain with the logic of the left brain, it takes us through the steps necessary to bring our concept, our art, to life. This practice, and understanding of how to create, builds these critical thinking skills that are the basis of a highly functioning brain, the kind that encourages scientific and mathematical genius, as well as the kind that designs sky scrapers, or tells

"The arts force us to take something that exists only in our imagination..."

great stories, makes movies, or composes music. Art is at the base of any creative, open, and engaged mind.

Not only does it develop creative, open and engaged minds, but it develops a spirit with the same qualities. The combination of a heart and mind that is fostered in creativity, critical thinking,

and compassion, creates citizens and communities that operate not from a fear of diversity, but from a genuine appreciation of it. An open creative spirit is curious. It finds alternative solutions to problems, rather than a steadfast attachment to a tunneled vision. It's an open mind. It chooses discovery over conquer. It chooses beauty over battle. That is the result of our work; that is why we do what we do, and why we need to keep doing it.

"Art is at the base of any creative, open, and engaged mind."

We, as artists, are pushers of the best and the cheapest drugs in the world, and the high we are addicted to is wonder. ❖

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.

Jan Alcalde

After only one semester of photography in college, Jan became smitten with images emerging from the darkroom and has been immersed in photography ever since. Since acquiring her photography skill set at Columbia Community College in the 80s, she says she misses the magic of latent images emerging on paper, but has made the transition to digital. She also works in watercolor, playing with prints, pixels and pigment. All of her art, be it a digital photograph or a watercolor, starts with her favorite tool, her camera. Her reference material for painting comes from her photos and she's found a

painting can often resurrect a failed photograph which makes working with both an ideal fit.

Jan's distinctive work can't disguise her love of travel, especially in the Southwest. Many of her images are from road trips. The artist has good memories of many great camping trips and spectacular sights she's been fortunate to see

in the canyons of the Four Corners area, the quadripoint in the southwestern United States where the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet. Not only is much of her own work generated there, but hanging in her bedroom is her favorite piece of art, a serigraph (a printed design produced by the means of a silkscreen) by Donna Cotatti called Sunset from Yavapai Point. This serigraph combines datura and a sweeping canyon



Our Gallery Artists

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

vista, and she enjoys getting lost in the misty layers of it. Found in the United States, Mexico and Tunisia, datura is one of her favorite flowers, so much so that she has a second datura serigraph in her entry way.

Closer to home, the artist encourages her guests and others she meets, to visit Big Trees State Park. She views it as the



jewel of Calaveras County and a most special place for young and old alike. If given enough time, she loves to take people beyond the park, up and over Ebbetts and Monitor passes, for lunch at Topaz Lodge in Gardnerville, Nevada, along Route 395. For her it's a great drive with spectacular views and of great historical significance too. Dessert comes at the end of the day on the return home when she tries to catch the light just right on Mosquito Lake, enchanting most everyone. ❖

Kathleen Halpin Canning

Kathleen produces most of her work in oils because she loves their fluidity, richness, and unique capacity to express color and light. She believes there is



a huge emotional potential in light and is fascinated with exploring that potential and expressing it on canvas. She goes on to say that sunlight, moonlight and artificial light all cast

their own types of color and shadow at different times, creating various moods and feelings. At the moment she is using a painting technique called glazing which is thinly applied in layers, allowing the eye to mix the colors. This requires patience, but gives depth and luminosity to create the light effects she wants to achieve.

As well as painting in oil, Kathleen also draws in graphite and charcoal. She has rendered commissioned portraits in both oil and graphite for clients in London, Boston and San Francisco, but finds her favorites are a pair of portraits of her own



parents which are framed in ornate gold and hang in her living room. She worked from black and white photos that

were taken at about the age when they first met each other, so the challenging part was using only her memory to get the coloration right. And in the end, she feels she really caught their personalities while maintaining an overall ancestral look that feels like they're part of a much older family tree.

When she's not in her studio and has visitors from out of town, where does Kathleen take them? Without hesitation, she says, "to the wineries!" She teases that they "drink" their way through Murphys! But the list of local tasting rooms has now grown quite long and she admits it may now really be just sipping their way through...

You can see Kathleen's work at Art on Main, but the artist has exhibited in many local art associations, juried shows and exhibits where she's earned numerous awards. And she recently completed illustrations for a children's book which is now awaiting publication. ❖

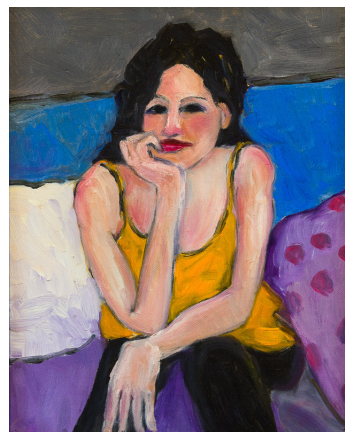
Charlotte Mahood

Artist Charlotte Mahood's passions are printmaking and oil painting. Working in her studio, conveniently located on her property next to her home, she can be found, day or night, listening to the classic French music she loves, and either painting or making prints that may include etchings, Chine Colle, monotypes or mixed media. In her work, this artist likes to observe and record her impressions of the world around her. Her figurative work is colorful, playful and she imparts a sense of design that is uniquely her own.



Before moving to the foothills of the Sierra-Nevada, Charlotte pursued her art in the Monterey Bay area, earning a degree from Cabrillo College and further pursuing her studies at Scottsdale Art School, Kala Art Institute and Monterey Peninsula College. Her mentor, now deceased, was distinguished painter and art professor, Geoff Morten, who moved from Britain to the California coast in 2003. She has five of his pieces – three etchings and two paintings – which hang in her home and are her favorite works of art.

Although Charlotte lived in Santa Cruz County for many years and belonged to several art associations there, she now belongs to Calaveras Arts Council, Arts of Bear Valley, and the Golden Palette Art Association. And when she gets those



visitors from her old stomping grounds, she doesn't hesitate to say she likes to take them to the Murphys Hotel for breakfast. She says that not only is it a treat, but a great value that gets you a choice of bacon or sausage, two eggs, hash browns and toast. Their eggs

Benedict, although not quite the same bargain, are also a hit on her list - and not just for special occasions either.

Charlotte's work has been selected for a number of juried shows and is in private collections throughout the United States. ❖

Judy Morgan

Judy is an accomplished watercolorist who has paintings in collections throughout the United States. Although hailing from Indiana, she grew up in Southern California and was a longtime resident of San Diego County where she was an



active member of the San Diego Watercolor Society. Now living in Calaveras County, the artist proudly belongs to the Calaveras County Arts Council and Arts of Bear Valley. She's also received numerous awards for her beautiful work at the Calaveras

County Fair as well as the Family Merit Award in the Spring Obsession Art Show 2011 at Ironstone Vineyards.

Finding watercolor fascinating, the artist enjoys putting what she sees in nature onto paper, often using her favorite painting tool, a white oval sable brush, which she says she flattens to make a nice edge. During her years in Southern California she studied with many nationally known watercolorists, including Edgar Whitney, Robert E. Wood and Rex Brandt, and today Judy is equally adept painting on location and in her studio, where she paints from her own photos and sketches.

At home Judy loves to fill her walls with art done by people she knows. She treasures each piece which she says brings her many memories of a person or event in her life. Outside of her art endeavors, she takes time to walk, kayak and garden a little. But her particular pleasure is reading historical novels and true crime stories, which is also what she turns down low while she is painting in her studio – not for enjoyment of the crimes themselves – but for her interest in the psychology of what people do and why they do it. It certainly doesn't seem to affect her paintings in anything other than a positive way! ❖



Guest Artists

Come by and see the works of David and Heather Hopman of Chaos Glassworks. Specializing in blown glass, their art pieces are bright, colorful and creative. Items include lights, bowls, paper weights, and other unique pieces. ❖

Change of Art

Our next art rotation is September 8, 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! ❖

Upcoming

Murphys Gold Rush Street Faire

Best known as Grape Stomp, on Saturday, October 1st, between 10:00 and 6:00, the gallery will have a booth with a variety of art offerings for this year's celebration of the grape harvest. ❖

Day of the Dead

The annual Day of the Dead celebration will be held in Murphys on Saturday, November 5th, starting at 11:00. This is a fun event and the gallery will display an altar dedicated to the deceased parents of our artists. Day of the Dead jewelry, other art and complimentary treats will be available. ❖

Holiday Open House

We will be celebrating the holidays with the Murphys community on December 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Streets are closed and shops stay open. Please come in and see our beautiful holiday offerings, have some cookies and share in the spirit of the season! ❖

ART ON MAIN
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