

# GALLERYBULLETIN

GALLERYBULLETIN February 2010

A newsletter from Auburn Old Town Gallery of Fine Art at 218 Washington in Old Town Auburn

Page 1  
Photography

Page 2  
Raku

Page 3  
Charcoal

Page 4  
Felt

Page 5  
Glass

Page 6  
Artists in Action



Beach at Pacifica

## Photography as You've Never Seen It

David Andrew Ottman - new to the gallery

Although my work is often thought to be an illustration, all of my images are photography. There are no hand-drawn elements in my images. All of the post-processing is diligently done by hand, but I'm not creating new content with strokes of the stylus. None of my images in my current catalog are composite images, either. (Compositing means that elements from separate images are brought together into a single image.) My images that look illustrative are a style of photography known as HDR (which stands for High Dynamic Range). This means that I shot multiple exposures of the same scene. This allows me to capture details in

the shadows and highlights that would have otherwise been lost. The unique look of my pieces comes from the process I use to mix the exposures and the techniques that I have developed over the last decade to polish the image until it eventually reaches completion.

There is no one, quick, simple way to create this effect. I go through four separate software programs, and hundreds of steps before I finish an image. Some steps affect the image globally, some are minute changes that would only be visible in a very large sized print. Even when I think I have completed an image, I will

occasionally revisit images years later to improve elements with new techniques I've learned or developed.

In the end, the process is irrelevant. I produce images that look like the view I saw in the real world, through my interpretation of the scene. I bring out the details that my eye was drawn to, I encourage the colors that affect me, and I minimize the elements that I found less interesting or distracting. The final product is a view of the world through my eyes. And I hope it brings the same joy to the viewer, the same sense of wonder and interest, as it does for me.

# Raku, Naked or Otherwise

Deborah Pittman - new to the gallery

Deborah Pittman is currently Professor of clarinet and studies in American Music at CSUS Sacramento, where she's taught since 1991. A native New Yorker, Ms. Pittman moved to Sacramento in 1981 to play second and bass clarinet with the Sacramento Symphony, a position she held from 1981-1990. After leaving the symphony, she began to explore other outlets for artistic expression.

"I devoted 45 years of my life to the clarinet. It was my first love and it has taken me to some wonderful places. I discovered the joy of playing with clay during the summer of 1994. Since that time, I have become addicted to the feel of wet spinning mud, to the smell of wet mud, to all the possibilities that wet mud holds. No one ever told me you could make music

without making a sound. I will forever be a mud woman."

Her current ceramic focus is the Wandering Ancestors, a series of tripod-pots. Each pot is thrown on the wheel and altered by hand. The result is a fat pot with the volume and symmetry of a traditional wheel-thrown piece on top and a sense of movement that comes from the three feet on the bottom. Her tripod pots are Raku fired- a quick firing method that always yields a surprise.

"It's like opening a Christmas gift- you never know what you might get. Sometimes it's like an out of tune note that resists focus- sometimes it's like a Shostakovich Symphony- pure bliss."

Left:  
Plump Dancer  
Naked Raku



Right:  
Fire Rising  
Raku



# New Directions

## Ty Conners - April gallery featured artist

Auburn artist Ty Conners recently completed a life-size drawing of Arnita Goodface-Swanson, a Lakota woman he photographed at the 2008 Auburn Big Time Pow Wow (below). “My goal is to create an American Indian series this year” says Ty. The work is currently on display at the gallery.

Ty also just finished a wall mural at the Placer County Multidisciplinary Interview Center (MDIC) in Roseville. “I volunteered my time to complete this project. The MDIC works with the courts and District Attorney’s office with the difficult job of interviewing young children who were victims of physical and sexual abuse. They interview kids as young as 3 to 4 years old up to 18. The mural I painted is in the interview room for the younger kids. This is a scary environment for the children, so they wanted something to help ease their stress. I painted a four-wall mural depicting children playing, and animals, in a backdrop of Placer County historic elements, the American River and Sierra Mountains.” The room is not yet in use,

since they are waiting to get all the video and recording equipment installed. Soon they will hold an opening ceremony and the room will be dedicated and named after Hannah Rose. Hannah was a high profile case of Shaken Baby death.

Painting is way out of my norm, so it might be surprising for some to see this, since all I ever do is charcoal. Working full-time takes away a lot of drawing time, but I’m still plugging away at what I can get done. A lot of free time has been spent on commissions. I have drawn over 20 commissioned portraits last year. Most of the portraits of have been children or animals.”

Ty will be one of three featured artists at the Auburn Old Town Gallery at the April 8th Art Walk and throughout April. Two other artists will also be featured: **Jaime Baxter**, pysanky artist, was featured in our [October newsletter](#), and **Barbara Hoffman** will be featured in an upcoming issue.

Left:  
Mato Win  
(Bear Woman)  
Charcoal  
Drawing

Right:  
Detail from  
MDIC mural



# Felt - The Soft Side of Art

## Mary Prantil

Working with textiles has been a part of my life since the arrival of my precious Llamas on the Ranch. The gift of fiber they give has opened my eyes to new dimensions in Art. It was only obvious to start out spinning, add weaving, to come full circle and add felting.

This primitive art form has been around for centuries, but relatively new to our country. It is seen as a more primitive form of fiber use that I find touches that Bohemian aspect to my personality. I have always loved the subtle colors the fiber animals have offered. Opting away from processing in large quantities I relish the variation in tone with each animal and many times within one animal! Felting allows the freeform texture of each animal to escape freely within the confines of structure. This wild side to my pieces brings you a sense of the animal within this raw form of art. It is within the nature of organic fiber to work with itself to form substance when moisture, agitation and heat are applied. The more one wears, washes, and manipulates the fibers the stronger the piece becomes!

I created the “Wings Series” to celebrate the freedom of form this medium allows. Let it wrap around you and keep you warm and connect you with the animal and nature.

## Merridee Joan Smith

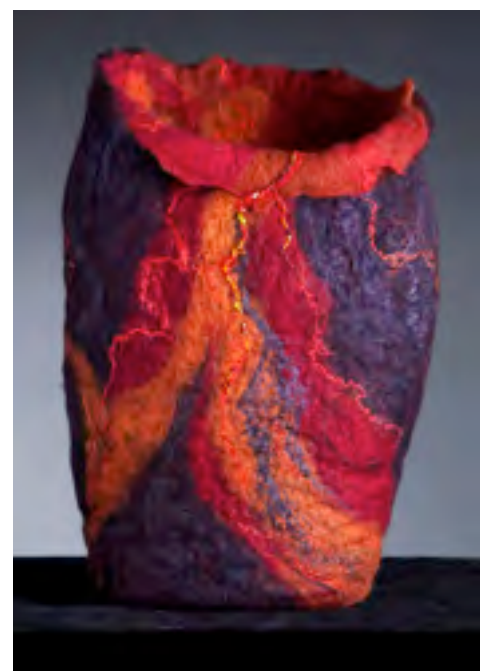
Felt is one of the world’s first textiles and has roots in diverse parts of the planet. It was used in making boots, saddle blankets, rugs, hats, coats and so much more. Unlike other textiles, felt requires no special tools such as spinning wheels and looms. Instead, the fiber itself accommodates us by having the structure needed to produce felts ranging from sensuously soft to heavy, firm and almost indestructible. The fibers have scales that, when wetted, open up; with agitation these fibers interlock. By controlling the amount and direction of the agitation, the artist can shape the resulting piece.

Since childhood I have been interested in fiber, and am humbled to add my hands to the work that stretches through the millennia, that of making cloth. I work with various types of wool, silk, bamboo, tencel, other fibers and beads to create works that represent earth forms, images of the sea and even lava. I am thrilled with the tactile quality of the work and the spontaneity of the medium. I have recently been particularly enjoying fashioning molten lava, the series inspired by Madam Pele, out of fiber. There is a world to explore in feltmaking.

**Left:**  
Wings series  
Mary Prantil



**Right:**  
Kilauea Series  
Merridee  
Smith



# Fired Up Over Glass

## Shannon Jane Morgan - Glass

Shannon has been working with hot glass for the past 15 years, having graduated from the school of “Sweat Equity” and is primarily self taught. Since 1995 she has explored and become widely known for her colorist approach, delving into glass color in a painterly fashion; inspired by a request from her mother when asked if she could, “Paint like Monet” in glass.

Driven by that ‘simple’ request, Shannon’s passion employs a wide range of techniques in her blown glass objects, drawing inspiration from her personal life and that of the world around her. Combining the naturalistic elements of light and glass Morgan states, “Glass is my canvas... the light passing through my piece holds me captive and breathless at times.”

Her craftsmanship is highly regarded by gallery owners, collectors and friends for the deep emotive quality held within each creation. Her intensity to create glass art is related to her need to express herself on a very personal level; to connect with another

person... or as she says, perhaps with herself.

“Making beautiful everyday glass art is the most empowering and fulfilling ‘jobs’ I have ever pursued.” Morgan continues, “To become one with this chosen medium - with timeless characteristics of strength, focus, tenacity and fearlessness coupled with modern day use of color, equipment and design - is such a spellbinding combination for me. Each day in the studio fascinates me. It is there the world falls away and time ceases to exist... from my minds eye to the creative process of making even the simplest water glass that just moments ago was molten, its consistency that of warm honey, and then 20 minutes later a beautiful small vessel from which to drink; a treasure that will stand the test of time for thousands of years to come.

“Glass art is my soul’s secrets brought to life.”

Left:  
Bowl and  
pumpkins



Right:  
Goblets



# Artists in Action

## More from your favorite artists

### **Events:**

#### **Janet and Rick Nicholson, Sonja Hamilton, Anita Lowe, Patty Dong and Reif Erickson:**

Showing at the North Auburn Art Studios Tour, Mothers' Day Weekend, May 8th and 9th, 10am to 5pm.

[www.northauburnartists.com](http://www.northauburnartists.com)

#### **Judith Monroe:**

Showing "Tree Stories: Chapter Two" at the Blue Wing Gallery in Woodland for the month of April. The opening reception will be Friday April 2nd, 6 to 9 pm at the Blue Wing Gallery, 405 Main Street, Woodland CA 95695.

[www.bluewinggallery.com](http://www.bluewinggallery.com)

#### **Patty Dong:**

Showing at the Salmon Creek Art Walk, May 1st and 2nd.

[www.salmoncreekartwalk.com](http://www.salmoncreekartwalk.com)

#### **Victoria Brooks:**

Showing in "20 Featured", a group exhibition at Patris S12 Gallery, Sacramento. Opening receptions during Sacramento's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Art Opening March 13th, 6 to 10pm.

Also showing at an open studio on the Loomis Art Loop Open Studios Tour, May 8th and 9th. [www.loomisartloop.com](http://www.loomisartloop.com).

#### **Cheri Danzer, Rebecca Martinez and Christine Salazar:**

Showing in a jewelry show at the Sacramento Main Library from February 16th to April 16th.

#### **Linda Miller:**

Has a one-woman show June 11th to July 6th at The Artery in Davis (207 G Street). The opening reception is on Friday, June 11th from 7 to 9pm.

#### **John Johnson, Chris Foster and Carol Bellamy:**

Participating in the Art Studio Trek April 24 & 25th, 10am to 5pm. Info at <http://www.artstudiotrek.com/>

#### **Merridee Smith:**

Showing recent felt works in "20 Featured" at the Patris S12 Gallery in Sacramento through February and March.

Also showing at the Volcano Art Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Merridee was recently honored with the Signature Membership, Master Silk Painter designation by Silk Painters International.

### **Classes:**

#### **Victoria Brooks:**

Impressionist Oil Painting: University Art on Fulton and Marconi in Sacramento. Wednesdays, starting March 31, 2010 for 6 weeks.

Plein Air Painting Workshop: Victoria's Loomis Studio. Saturday and Sunday May 1 & 2, 2010.

Mendocino Plein Air Painting Workshop: Mendocino Art Center. Saturday and Sunday May 22 & 23, 2010.

Please [e-mail Victoria](mailto:Victoria@artloop.com) for details.

#### **Sonja Hamilton:**

France: A Watercolor Workshop: June 2-9 2010. Home base will be in Chelieu, about 40 miles from Lyon, in a private farmhouse. Absolute deadline for the trip to be a "go" is Mar 15. Contact is either by [e-mail](mailto:sonja@artloop.com) or by phone (530) 878-4700.