

GALLERYBULLETIN

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

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The Gallery shows its metal!

Jay Stargaard

I started welding in the summer of 2004 and fell head over heels in love with it. We built my studio on the land next to our home in the spring of 2005, and I have been creating my artwork there ever since.

With the magic of nature as my subject, the sculptures I create are original, made mostly from recycled and found materials including rock, wood, water, stainless

steel, copper, bronze and mild steel. Using recycled metals gives me the opportunity to appreciate the past, yet dramatically transform them into something new graced with beauty and joy. Each individual piece of art has its own unique energetic essence, so when it takes its final form it is distinctively different than any other.

Technically, they are hand forged and crafted by TIG

Blue Dragonfly: This little beauty is made from recycled stainless steel and bronze with a blue patina. It sparkles and reflects light beautifully as it dances in the garden.

welding. My focus with the process of fabrication is using my tools and techniques in diverse uncommon ways to create art forms that flow with the essence of love, grace and beauty. Creating art teaches me about everyday life and it has elegantly opened my heart and mind to appreciate the beauty and vibrancy of the world we live in. I love it.

To see Jay's art [click here](#).

Abstracting meaning from metal

Stephen Lentz

The sculptures that Stephen has hanging in the Auburn Old Town Gallery range from smaller pieces, the size of a business card or cell phone, to larger pieces that are over two feet in length and width. Each piece shares a three dimensional aspect; literally popping off of the wall. Copper and silver wires not only hold the various parts of a work together, but also spring out in curls and waves from his pieces, giving each one a feeling of movement.

Stephen flattens each wire by hammering it by hand, and the result is a wonderful texture that lends visual interest to the smallest of details. These wires are more than decorative, as Stephen likes to use tension along with the occasional joints to hold his sculptures together. Sheets of copper and brass are finished with a tool that grinds a unique pattern on the surface, resulting in a texture that is a cross between fine sand and a reptilian skin. It is this attention to detail and

texture that makes Stephen's pieces so interesting to look at.

Copper and brass are not the only elements to find their way to Stephen's sculptures. He incorporates natural elements as well. Rocks and glass are entwined with wire and provide a focus point on many of his works. The juxtaposition of hard wires and metal sheets with the soft edges of smooth rocks make each piece visually interesting. The bright, gold-orange glow of copper wire wrapped around a deep, royal blue shard of glass is a beautiful use of color that is unexpected in a metal sculpture.

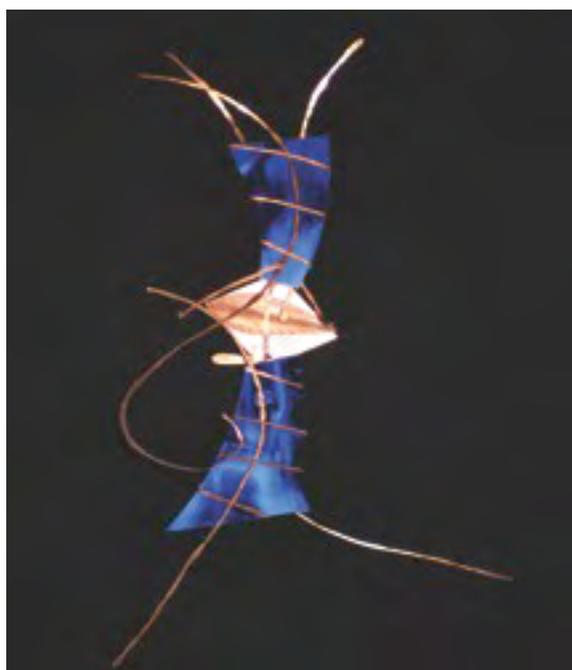
Lately, Stephen has also been using wood in his works as well. This new element brings even more contrast and interest to his pieces; the natural colors and patterns of the wood playing off of the sharp edges of his metals.

You can see Stephen's work at his [blog](#).

Left:
Reaching



Right:
Walk in the
wind



A journey through the arts

Cheri Danzer

There I was halfway through my life. Defined by Motherhood, Wifedom and a twenty year nursing career. Time for a new definition! While I was exploring the creative side of my brain I was drawn to painting and took a few private classes in the bay area. This really helped me with color sense and this particular teacher was so free with her knowledge it was a pleasure to learn from her.

I was pulled slowly into three dimensional craft when I took some ceramic classes at a local college. I loved the push-pull of clay and could use color on it. Clay sculpture lead to a class in silversmithing, that was a turning point for me, I loved metal working. In jewelry you can create miniature sculpture, wearable art. This medium also lead me to the college welding class and eureka! I had finally found a way to work larger. I had always wanted to work in a found object medium,

I include fused glass in my larger welded work and have started to include found objects in my smaller jewelry sculpture. I learned to forge metal in the welding class and have carried that into the jewelry work. Moving a flat piece metal with a hammer and tools, watching it change before your eyes, is a pleasure I would hate to ever give up. I've recycled old pieces of silver and copper into my wearable art. Cutting up old copper bowls for bracelets, repurposing old silver brooches, earrings and bracelets into new creations. I've even done some lapidary work lately because I can't find the stones I like to put into my work.

It's been a great adventure, that journey I started 20 years ago. I'm retired now and I love working through a local gallery. There are 57 artists at the Auburn Old Town Gallery. Come by sometime and let us tickle the creative corners of your mind.

Left:
Urban
Alchemy
necklace



Right:
Pearl the Cat



A menagerie of metal

Stacey Lamothe

I am happiest when I am creating whether it is in the garden, kitchen, or studio. My studio is nestled in a cluster of oak trees, not far from the house. Inside it is a rustic workspace where I can forget time while I play & nurture creative whims into metal art forms. I have a husband, Jack, two dogs, nine chickens, and a prolific garden. All these things inspire me and I do believe that everyday is sacred.

I completed my first basic fabrication course in 1998 at the Revere Academy in San Francisco. That was all it took. I loved metal and knew I was hooked! The materials I am drawn to most are copper & sterling silver. My first pieces started with tiny pin portraits of my dog, Frankie . This theme has grown to include a dozen dog images, a couple of cats, a few chickens, a horse.

Many of my designs are amusing some are just sweet. I hammer, saw, solder, rivet

and stamp each piece into a little masterpiece you can wear, or give as a special gift. When I'm creating in my studio, time is not relevant. I am blissfully enthralled. When I finish a piece and it can make me laugh, elicit a fond memory or inspire, then I know I'm on the right track. When I see this happening to others, I know I've done my job.

My current body of work is adornment and jewelry that is heartfelt and makes you smile. Along with my animal jewelry, I am inspired by the challenge of creating something of value from something discarded and making a treasured keepsake from it. I re-purpose found objects e.g. bottle caps, sticks , river rocks, puppy teeth, old buttons, vintage coins, compasses and the list goes on...

You can see my work at here at Auburn Old Town Gallery or visit my website www.staceylamotheart.com

Left:
Heart Song.
River stone,
sterling and
copper



Right:
Recycle Peas
Pendant.
Re-purposed
bottle cap,
pearls and
sterling wire



Featured artists

June 2010

Each month the gallery features the work of three of its artists. There will be a reception at the gallery on Thursday June 10th from 6 - 9pm to coincide with the PlacerArts Artwalk. Please join us to talk with the artists, see their work and share a few appetizers.



Sonja Hamilton

Sonja has just returned from Yosemite National Park where she has taught an outdoor workshop, painting at a different location each day. Waterfalls and rivers are bountiful as are the blooming dogwood. The occasional wild azalea can also be found in shady spots by the river. Come share Sonja's experience through her watercolor paintings. Well known award winning artist, teacher, calligrapher and art show judge, Sonja Hamilton's paintings are found in collections in Canada, England, France, Belgium, New Zealand, China and Japan as well as in the US. Her work is controlled, yet spontaneous. Basically a realist, she loves what she does and can't imagine not ever painting since this is part of her soul. You can see more of her work at her [web site](#).



Dorene Kidd

Dorene, a founding member of the Auburn Old Town Gallery, considers herself very lucky to have been raised in the country outside of the Gold Rush town of Auburn. She began drawing at a very young age and always knew that she wanted to be an artist. She is a self-taught artist that draws just what she sees. Dorene has tried her hand at many different mediums, such as ink, watercolors, oils, colored pencils and using beads to draw a scene. She has won several awards and her work is part of private and corporate collections here and abroad.



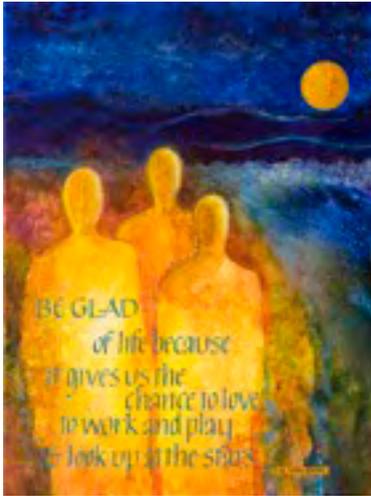
Gary Freeman

Starting as a hobby in his garage to becoming a full-time business, Gary Freeman has always found wood working to be exciting and fulfilling. Born and raised in the East Bay Area, his first learned to work with wood in a high school Wood Shop class. He bought his first table saw right out of the Navy in 1972 and has been collecting wood working tools and perfecting his wood working skills ever since. He is constantly working on new furniture designs using exotic hardwoods from all over the world. The results are beautiful one-of-a-kind accent pieces; no two will ever be exactly alike.

Featured artists

July 2010

Each month the gallery features the work of three of its artists. There will be a reception at the gallery during the month of July. Check our [web site](#) for date and time. Please join us to talk with the artists, see their work and share a few appetizers.



Chris Foster

Chris uses calligraphy in her art “in the hope of evoking a response in the viewers that hits home about their mysterious inner life.” Chris’ paintings are typical of what is called modern expressive calligraphy, painting abstractly and incorporating some lettering, emphasizing color, shape and form that excite the eye. She works intuitively, in acrylic on canvas, and when she interprets the text it may become just a texture in the composition. Learn more about Chris’s artwork at her [web site](#).



Don Lawson

Don specializes in woodcarving and woodturning. He strives to incorporate the natural elements of the wood - grain, figure, color and texture - into the design and flow of each artwork. “I like to add little surprises,” he says, “a semiprecious stone, a piece of moss or a band of inlay make the work special and personal.” Don believes fine woodworking should produce an emotional response and a desire in the viewer to touch and feel. His work has won many awards and is proudly displayed in private and public collections throughout the United States.



Stephen Lentz

Stephen forms each piece into a unique work of art using his imagination as he works the metal and wire together. He has begun incorporating glass into some of his pieces, feeling that when glass is added, it brings out the emotions that are hidden in the metal. Stephen loves “the fact I can help the metal find a life of its own, whether it’s steel, copper, brass or found metal.”

Artists in Action

More from your favorite artists

Events:

Jane Welles, Stacey Lamothe,

Michelle MacKenzie:

Showing at the 52nd Art Fiesta at the Town & Country Village, Fulton & Marconi, June 5th & 6th, 10am - 5pm

Carol Bellamy:

Showing at the Auburn Public Library, 350 Nevada Street, June 2nd through August 1st. *Faces from Around the World*, a series of wire portraits of people of all nationalities. She uses the photo portraits of National Geographic photographer, Steve McCurry as models for her wire images. Monday & Friday, 10am - 6pm.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11am - 7pm.; Saturday 10am - 5pm

Elaine Rothwell:

Etching, *After Millet*, will be in the CT Academy of Fine Arts 99th Annual Exhibit May 28th - July 17th in Mystic, CT

Two *Mad Meg* etchings will be on exhibit starting June 28th at the Salmagundi Club, 47 - 5th Ave., NY

Eight etchings are currently in the BlueLine Gallery, Roseville, *Meditations and Mandalas* show until June 17th

Pam Snyder, Ty Conners, Larry Brenden:

Showing at the California State Fair from July 14th through August 1st

Victoria Brooks:

April 23rd - July 3rd: Expressions West: Victoria's painting *Truckee Snow* at the Annual Exhibition at the Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay, Oregon.

June 1st - 30th: National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society Signature Artists Invitational: Two paintings at the Cultural Arts Council Gallery, Estes Park, CO

July 26th - 31st: Frank Bette Plein Air Painting Competition and Exhibition: One of 40 artists chosen to paint the beautiful island city of Alameda in the San Francisco Bay exhibition and sale on Saturday the 31st from 10am to 7pm at the Town Center Shopping Center.

Chris Foster and John Johnson:

Helped paint a six foot ribbon for Ribbons of Hope.

Victoria Brooks, Merridee Joan Smith, Patty Dong:

June - September: Bold And Beautiful: Exhibition at the Patris S12 Gallery in Sacramento, CA.

Receptions during Sacramento's 2nd Saturday July 10th & August 14th, 6pm - 10pm, thru Sept 11th

Sonja Hamilton:

Painted three paintings for the Placer Land Trust exhibit to help promote the purchase of the 2400 acre Bruin Ranch

Linda Miller:

New Work at The Artery, 207 G St., Davis, June 11th - July 6th, hours Monday - Saturday 10 - 6, Fridays until 9pm, Sun 12-5. Artist's reception June 11th, 7 - 9 pm

Deborah Pittman:

Ceramics featured in a show at the E Street Gallery and Studios, 1115 E St., Sacramento, CA, Opening, July 10th at 6pm

Anita Lowe:

Showing at the Sacramento Potters Group's *The Show at the Garden*, Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Saturday June 19th, 10 am - 4 pm

Classes:

Patty Dong:

Art Around the World and Art with the Masters are drawing and painting workshops offered for children ages 6 and up at Patty Dong's art studio, 460 Old Airport Rd.; mornings June 21st to July 16th.

(www.pepdart.com)

Awards:

Sonja Hamilton:

Named the "Placer School For Adults, Teacher of the Year, 2009-2010" and a Placer County recognition award, "Teachers Who Make A Difference, 2010"