

GALLERYBULLETIN

GALLERYBULLETIN January 2011

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

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The Gallery exhibits its animal instinct!

I've been in love with animals as far back as I can remember and have been drawing them since I could hold a crayon. I'm grateful to my parents for encouraging both my connection with animals and my artistic ways.

I opted for a degree in biology and that has served me very well, leading me to become a "bio-nerd" with a talent for drawing and painting. Animals remain my favorite and most common subjects. The scientific side of my brain lets me focus on detail and realism, while the emotional side helps me capture the character and spirit.

1 My affinity for animals and art

led to a natural fit in pet portraiture. I accept commissions for pet portraits and have created nearly 150 drawings or paintings of beloved pets in the last few years. In most cases I take my own reference photographs and this allows me to meet new animals and people who love animals as much as I do. I'm game to tackle pretty much any animal or nature subject as long as I have or can find good reference photos.

Of course, art is a passion, so I'm always working on a few drawings or paintings; some are commissions, others are pieces that speak to me. I work in a

**Homer: Pot-Bellied Pig
Ink on Scratchboard
Ann Ranlett**

variety of mediums, depending on the subject and either my mood or the client's preference. Ink on scratchboard allows for great detail and I enjoy the challenge of capturing the subject in only black & white. Pencil is another favorite and also a challenge to render a subject in shades of grey. On the flip side, I love working with color and when I "do color" I tend to go all out and use really bright, vibrant colors for my "Paintings with Petzazz" or mixed media works.

See more of Ann's art at <http://www.annran.com>

From miniatures to murals

Linda Miller

I came to paint in acrylics after many years of making art my job. I worked in oils, fabric arts (soft sculpture and clothing), graphic arts and watercolors. There are constants that have always run through my work, no matter what the medium. They are my love of realism, fine detail and vivid colors. I always have my eyes open to the challenges of new surfaces I might paint on. I have enjoyed painting on walls, paper, wood, canvas, clay, fabric and stucco.

I am happiest when I am painting, and my favorite thing to paint is animals -- dogs, cats, hamsters, turtles, bunnies, rats, birds, etc. I love to capture the soul in the eyes of a sweet dog, the curve of a soft cat's tail, or a hummingbird's sparkling throat

I like to show the relationship between an animal and its human in my compositions, but the animal is always the star. People become less important by mostly being a sort of background for the animal. A lap here, a hand there tells the story of the relationship between animal

and human. Whether it is a dog on a lap, a hand stroking fur, or a little paw gently reaching up to a knee; if it expresses the love and tenderness shared, I am successful. If a person is not in the painting, then I like to make the animal appear to be ready to jump or climb out of the canvas.

I often use wrap-around canvases (so I can continue my composition onto the edges) to enhance this sense of aliveness.

Many of my commissions are to create lasting memorials to beloved pets. I feel honored and enjoy being able to do this for my clients. People sometimes don't have the best photographs of their dearly departed pets. I have conquered many a challenging portrait from some pretty rumples, torn, faded and otherwise questionable photos. Luckily, I really enjoy challenges!

See more of my work at www.ArtworkByLindaMiller.com

Left:
Bob's hand



Right:
At the faucet



A journey begins with a single step

Monica Turner

I like this saying. It could be used for life in general. The phrase has an adventurous ring, and it's what I love about life. I savor each step in my journeys and my adventures. I enjoy observing my surroundings carefully, knowing that they are always changing.

My view of most any journey is one that is full of visual wonderment.

Whether it is a giraffe, infant baboon, a zebra bathing in the dirt or a cheetah, my eyes are drawn to movement, color and shapes. Or my eyes may be drawn to the inspiring ability of the natural world to stay its course.

When I explore, whether it's in my backyard or around the globe, there are always new visual experiences. I take pleasure in the ostrich striding alongside the research vehicle or the

unexpected and quiet band of giraffes approaching fast from the horizon, stretching tall over the tips of whistling thorn trees or the iguana sunning itself in the shrubs at eye level. Whether it's the next day's sunrise or sunset, the image is never the same. My eyes are always searching looking for the next image to capture in paint.

When I paint, people or animals, I always begin with the eyes. If I get the eyes right, then I know the painting will turn out alright. I enjoy bringing out on paper what I have seen. The quiet strength and beauty is a part of what I wish to interpret. I really hope that I can also show a little bit of Kenya too. It's a country that has so much to show and offer.

[Visit Monica's page on the Arts Registry](#)

Left:
Ostrich



Right:
Yawning
lioness



New to the gallery artists

We welcome three new artists to the gallery. If you have not visited us recently, drop in and see their new offerings



Lisa Bone

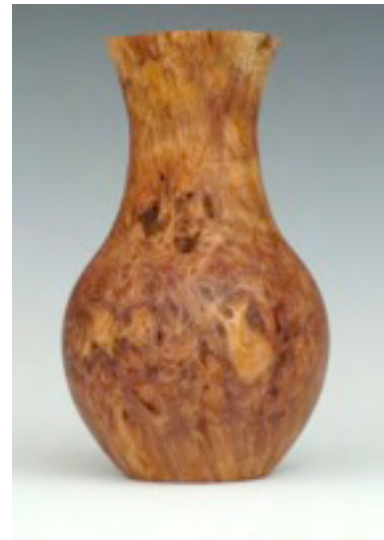
Lisa has always had a creative side. She has worked with gourds, faux finishes, various crafts and home remodeling; but, it's clay that consistently keeps her interested. She was first introduced to ceramics while attending college at the State University of New York at Oswego. Until that time, she had never touched a piece of clay. She loved it, but did not get a chance to work with it again until she graduated, moved to California, got married and had two sons! She now has her own studio and spends as much time as she can honing her craft.

She is especially drawn to Raku and the various types of Raku firing. The unpredictability and element of surprise that lends itself to Raku is always fun.



Ellen Huls

There is nothing better in the whole world than a smiling face. It brings me joy, cheers me up, and gives me hope. That must be why everything I sculpt has a face, and most of those faces are joyous. When a piece jumps out of the clay bag with a sad, scornful, sleepy, or skeptical expression, I always poke fun at the character and make sure that the expression is really over the top. I enjoy meeting the funny and expressive characters who come to life under my hands. I am always surprised, always delighted, and pretty much always amazed too, when these clay pieces appear. I never make the same piece twice, and everyday in the studio is an adventure and an experiment. Being able to play with clay every day in my studio is the greatest blessing of my life.



Nick Todd

Nick has been turning since 1996, incorporating wood into his work that has been recycled or destined for a landfill. He teaches and demonstrates locally and in a studio in Citrus Heights. He is a regular attendee at local & national symposia and has been honored to be woodturning judge for the Redwood Empire Fair, seven years running.

Nick has worked to promote art exhibits in and around central California.

“I enjoy the journey of turning and sharing information. One of the most important aspects of my journey was learning how a tree living in its environment affects how the wood will react as a finished object.

Much of my work incorporates the drying process of fresh-cut wood. In some cases the pieces are finished before the wood is completely seasoned, allowing the shape and texture to develop as the piece dries.”

Featured artists

January 2011

February 2011

April 2011

Each month the gallery features the work of three of its artists. Please join us to talk with the artists, see their work and share a few appetizers.



John Johnson

John Johnson could be considered a blender; his passion is blending photographs into original, unique art. He's mixed pictures of animals with antique photos he scans into his computer to form whimsical creatures found on the Island of Doctor Moreau.

For his composite piece, "Windmills and Plowed Fields," John combined an image of windmills taken in Altamont Pass with a picture of concrete columns - placed on their sides - in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

This creation will be displayed as part of Blue Line Gallery's 2011 Photography Open Exhibition, which opens Saturday, Jan. 15, with a public reception.



Carol Bellamy

I am a wire artist. Each piece of my 2 and 3 dimensional work is one line of wire, similar to line drawing.

Wire art is an art that has a lot of open ends to it. There are no rules except for the ones I decide on. I enjoy the freedom to create along with the freedom to follow my own rules. I can create almost anywhere; all I need is a spool of wire, my needle nose pliers and a chair. I have explored the use of many different wires; different gauges and different metals. I moved into wall hanging and framed 2D work after beginning with 3D. I have also had fun letting pieces rust or painting them. I began by producing art pieces and have moved into doing more artfully constructed baskets and bowls. My latest new project is portraits in wire.



Gail & Shannon Morgan

Self taught Sacramento artist Shannon Jane Morgan has worked with hot glass for the past 15 years. 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. Shannon 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." Glass art is my soul's secrets brought to life."

New works by our artists

Rebecca Martinez

"Bold Heart," polymer and freshwater pearl pendant on Buna cord, is smooth on one side and textured on the other. I don't usually "do" hearts (too sweet!), but the idea of a geometric and aggressive heart appealed to me. I like the way it resembles a tiny dagger.

Rhubarb beads of red and green polymer are inspired by the beautifully natural gradation of red to green in the stalks of rhubarb. The bracelet also includes glass beads (one is from Murano) and stretches for easy wearing.



Stacey Lamothe

I take the image from a customer (either photo or jpeg) and create a drawing. I then render this in sterling and copper. I have many cameos in my case at OTG. If you can't find one that looks like your dog, cat, chicken or horse, you can have me create your personal, one of a kind pendant with YOUR pet. I put special text on the back (that rests over your heart). You will be the only one on the planet with your special cameo.



Artists in Action

More from your favorite artists

Events:

Patty Pieropan Dong:

"Art Can Heal" featuring the oils and watercolors of Patty Pieropan Dong at the Sutter Auburn Faith hospital gallery, 11795 Education Dr., Auburn, Jan. 17 - Apr. 15. Reception Wednesday Feb. 9th, 4-6PM.

Jaime Baxter:

Will exhibit her Pysanka (decorated) eggs at the Auburn Library during the month of April.

Marsha Rafter:

Exhibiting in a group show, "Circus of Color," at PlacerArts Gallery from Jan. 14 - Feb. 19.

Sonja Hamilton:

Watercolor demonstrations:

February 9 - Pioneer Art, Grass Valley, CA

April 15 - Sequoia Art Group, CA

Call: Catherine (650) 369-6456

April 16 - Society of Western Artists, Redwood City, CA. Call: Jeanne (650) 346-5709

Victoria Brooks:

January 8 - February 19, Northern California Light: Paintings By The California Art Club, Thomas Reynolds Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Classes:

Ann Ranlett:

Teaching a class at 'A Chance for Bliss Animal Sanctuary and Wellness Center' in Penryn on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 1-4. The class is an "Introduction to Scratchboard". Information: http://www.annran.com/pages/class_info.html

Marsha Rafter:

Teaching classes in tempered glass mosaic Jan. 22, 23 and again Feb. 26, 27.

Teaching polymer clay for mosaic artists class on March 12, 13. Information: www.marsharafter.com
marsha@marsharafter.com

Sonja Hamilton:

Placer School for Adults, ongoing watercolor

Call: PSA (530) 665-6565

April 2 Matting & Framing Watercolors

Call: PSA (530) 665-6565

Two openings for a "Switzerland Watercolor Paint-Away" with Sonja. June 4 - 11.

Info at www.frenchescapade.com. Look for "Painting trips"

Michelle MacKenzie:

Take your art to the next level, or work with beginners to master the basics. Learn exciting techniques using acrylic paints and mediums, collage, mixed media, stamping and stenciling. Individual lessons or small groups. Contact Michelle MacKenzie at 916-220-9136 or email at michellemack@yahoo.com for more details.

Victoria Brooks:

Free Travel Painting Workshop: April 16th at her Loomis, CA studio for those enrolled in the Santorini, Greece Workshop or are considering coming. RSVP 916-768-1751 or Victoria@vbrooks.com

Mendocino Plein Air Workshop: Impressionist oil painting workshop on location and in the studio. Work quickly to simplify the landscape and capture the ambiance of the area. Includes choice of subject, technique, composition, color and values. www.mendocinoartcenter.org

Awards:

Elaine Rothwell:

Etching "The Potter" won the "Juror's Award" at the 72nd Annual Exhibit of the American Color Print Society in Philadelphia, PA.

John Johnson:

Won an Award of Merit for his picture "Windmills and Plowed Fields" (see page 5) at the Blue Line Gallery in Roseville.

Carol Bellamy:

Won the First Place Award at the Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay Ore., Juried art exhibition entitled Fish and Fishing Art, show runs thru February 18, 2011.

Ty Conners:

Won a "Public Service Excellence Award" awarded by the Placer county Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center. a facility that provides child-friendly interview rooms for victims of child abuse. He designed and painted a mural on the center's wall, an eye-catching mural that shows children playing with Placer County landmarks such as the Auburn Historic Courthouse in the background.