

GALLERYBULLETIN

GALLERYBULLETIN August 2011

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

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September is Sale Month!

Every item in the gallery is **15% off**

*Auburn Old Town Gallery
Patty Pieropan Dong*

If it's September, a visit to the Auburn Old Town Gallery is even more worthwhile.

Whether you are looking for a birthday or early Christmas present, or just for that special something for you or a friend, Auburn's Old Town Gallery has it.

We are a collaborative gallery with 57 member artists, all from the Auburn region. Our artists work in a wide variety of media: many types of painting, wood and metal work, ceramics, photography, fiber art and many others.

Each and every item in the gallery will be on sale at 15% off throughout September. Our prices are already reasonable; the sale just makes them more so. We have excellent art of every kind and in every price range, from two dollars to two thousand. If you are unsure what to buy for that special person, gift certificates are available.

The gallery is staffed by our members, who are ready and willing to answer your questions about any of the art on display. We accept debit and all major

credit cards, and layaways are always welcome.

We are located in Old Town Auburn over the freeway at the Nevada Street exit from Westbound I-80 and just off the Maple Street Auburn Exit from Eastbound I-80.

Our hours are 10am to 6pm, Sunday through Wednesday, and 10am to 9pm, Thursday through Saturday.

On behalf of the 57 participating artists, welcome to our gallery.

A Lifetime Passion for Wood

Gary Freeman

My first experience in woodworking was in the 8th grade; it was then that I knew I wanted to continue woodworking. I took Wood Shop I in my freshman year and unfortunately failed the class. The only way to continue on in woodworking was to take it again in summer school and pass it. In that class I received an "A" from the same teacher who failed me during the year...maybe I paid more attention this time or maybe I learned from my many mistakes and applied what I learned.

At twenty-three and recently out of the Navy, I landed a good job and bought my first house. At twenty-five I bought my first table saw, the same saw I have used until just this year when I bought myself a new one. I began making clocks, anything from wall clocks to grandfather clocks and small furniture. I was hooked.

At thirty-four and just married, we built a home and I made all the interior cabinetry and exterior finish work. We were raising a family and life got in the way; for nearly 15 years I didn't do any woodworking.

In 2004 we moved to the Auburn area and my goal was to retire soon and play golf. Well...in 2005 my wife Gale and I opened a business in Old Town Auburn. She asked me to build furniture for the store. This gave me the opportunity to build anything I wanted using any type of wood that caught my eye. I got hooked again and, even though our business closed 4½ years later, I continue to create furniture. I have been a member of the Auburn Old Town Gallery since 2008. I currently spend at least 40 hours a week woodworking and golf maybe twice a year.

I am mostly self taught except for my high school years. I never actually draw plans; I visualize everything in my mind and just start building. As I am building, I critique my work and alter the design as I go. I never make the same piece twice. I am always trying to improve my designs and my skills.

What I enjoy most about woodworking is that there is no limit to your creativity. My goal is to continue creating the furniture that I love to make...and maybe squeeze in a few rounds of golf along the way.

*Checkerboard
Table*



Turning Wood into Art

Don Lawson

Wood turning is a wonderful creative outlet that lets me transform what might be a square block of wood into a spectacular piece of art that showcases the interesting features of the grain, color and texture of the wood.

Redwood Burl Sculpture:

For this project I elected to use wood from the most majestic of trees, the Sequoia gigantea. This tree reaches a diameter of over 30 feet and can be more than 300 feet tall; it grows only in California. Sometimes it forms burls to cover an injury or insect attack. Wood turners consider a burl as a unique gift from the tree because it contains an explosion of grain direction and color variation found no where else in the tree. I feel that I've honored this tree by turning its burl into a lovely piece of art. The design is that of a hollow form, but the walls are left thick to impart a feeling of the weight and strength of the original tree. Because the tree was fire scarred and blackened, I decided to use

African Black Wood as a counter point which you see as the collar at the opening.

Space Needle:

I often combine species of wood as in the "Space Needle" sculpture. This piece incorporates reddish brown Australian Lace Wood with its striking rays and flecks and Nigerian Ebony, almost pure black, which allows the viewer's eyes to focus on the long thin turned spindle form and shape, almost like a silhouette. Inside is the surprise, a gold leafed chamber enclosing a Waterford crystal tear drop. The high center of gravity of the piece is eye catching and gives it a fragile, suspended appearance. I've added one more detail, an encompassing, surrounding band of inlay to add a sense of revolving motion.

Left:

Redwood Burl Sculpture

Right:

Space Needle





New Artists in the Gallery

Left: *Fire and Ice*
Michael Larson

Below: *Eagle Eye*
Jerry Berry



Michael Larson

Michael's first work with form and color started as a goldsmith creating original works of fine jewelry. Later, as a machinist and machine shop owner he learned TIG welding to bring an added service to his customers. It didn't take long before his love of art kicked in and he was welding extra bits of steel, stainless steel and aluminum into outdoor sculptures and garden art. In the mid 1990's he purchased his first kiln and began experimenting in fused glass.

"Glass has added several dimensions to my art work. The colors, the depth and illusions, the sounds and movement that glass brings to garden art have kept me creatively inspired. There seems to be no end to the things I want to create."

Most pieces are made from reused and found materials. Much of the glass used is discarded window panes, the metals have been gathered over the years from a variety of sources. "I enjoy the challenge of seeing new form and beauty in discarded materials and transforming them into unique works of art."

Jerry Berry

In 1975 I borrowed a camera and ventured on a road trip to the Grand Canyon and Colorado with a schoolmate. I was hooked on photography. As I progressed I discovered that documentation of a subject was not enough to become an adequate photographer/artist. I know there is more than just snapping the shutter. What drives me is taking my photography beyond that initial shutter release. I believe that moment, although the final step in the initial process of capturing an image, is only the first step in creating the final image.

I use many different techniques when I create my images. I may capture an image by using what the camera and lenses offer me as tools. Vaseline on the lens filter, slow shutter speeds, and camera motion may be employed as well as multiple exposures. My preference is to start with one file and work with what I have captured. Some times two or more files may be combined to create one image. Once that initial process has been completed, the digital darkroom remains my final tool in developing the image that represents my vision.



New Artists in the Gallery

Left: *Winter*
Joan Sexton

Below: *Old Hwy 49 Bridge*



Joan Sexton

Joan Sexton, formally with the gallery for over 10 years with her pastel paintings, has returned with her new work in encaustics. During her two year absence, she has kept involved with her art, especially with encaustics (that is, working with hot wax). Since she has been a landscape painter, you will find many of her encaustics mirror the outdoors, although abstraction is also her love.

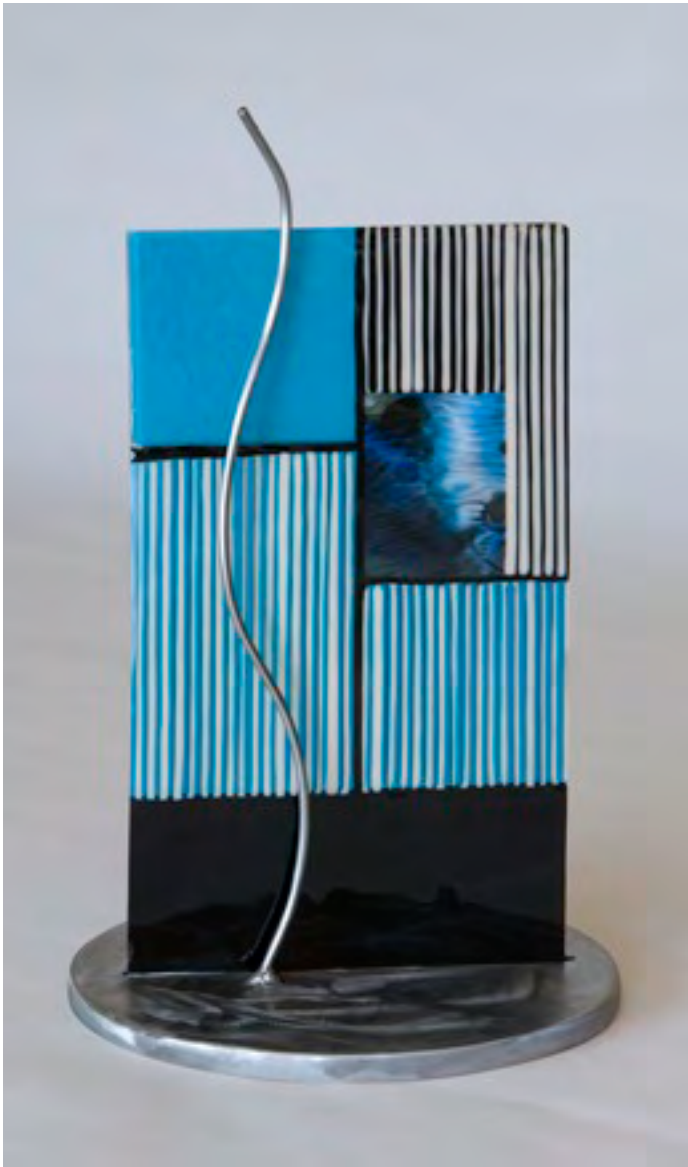
Encaustic is a paint composed of beeswax, dammar resin and pigments and is often used to describe both the paint and the method for using it. The paint is applied molten to an absorbent surface, and then fused (or re-melted) to create a variety of effects.

Encaustic painting has been around since ancient times. Trojan ships were sealed with pigmented wax to make them watertight and eventually it evolved into a means of decorating and personalizing each ship. It is having a resurgence in today's art world, having proven exciting and easily open to innovation. Since encaustic has a melting point of over 200 degrees, it can be used successfully in most every environment. If it starts to melt, you have a bigger problem...your house is on fire!!

Ginger Luters

People are surprised when they see "Original Digital Art" listed as the medium on my paintings. I've had people argue with me and say "I know that this is a watercolor." I work with a large graphics tablet and a stylus that looks like a ballpoint pen. Two computer monitors are side by side on my desk. One monitor is my "canvas" and the other holds my tools, the many brushes that I can choose from, the colors palette, the palette on which I can blend and mix colors, and other tools that are exclusive to digital art. The key that makes all this possible is the amazing software program, Painter, somewhat similar to Photoshop, with an emphasis on fine art rather than photography or commercial art.

The subject matter of my art ranges from realistic local scenes to colorful abstract creations. I often begin with a blank canvas, painting and drawing referring to a photograph that I've taken on my many travels. At other times I reduce one of my photos to a few black and white lines, adding layers, colors, and shapes to this. For me, this new digital world is extremely exciting and engrossing, filled with so many possibilities yet to be explored.



New Artists in the Gallery

Left: *Echos*
Jenny Stepp

Below: *Leather bag and purses*
Jennifer Lile



Jenny Stepp

I am both a tutored and self-taught artist, taking my first official art class over 30 years ago. My customers tell me that my meld of glass and metal is what sets me apart from many other artists. They seem to enjoy the combination of both arts forms.

For my artistic expression, I view art as inspiration, beauty and philosophy. I search to best represent my experiences and my life views while remaining true to my own aesthetic values. I try not to set limits on what I create (sculpture, furniture, wall-hangings), while trying to retain a sculptural element in each piece. One can see many traditional artistic methods in my work: casting, welding, forming, aperture pours, assemblage. I value these forms and desire to create something new in order to inspire others, as well as myself to “see” in an entirely new way.

Jennifer Lile

“Give me a pile of anything and I can make you something interesting out of it. Just don’t ask me to draw a picture of it first.” I make jewelry, weave both on and off loom, work with wood, clay, found objects, gourds and whatever else I can get my hands on.

At the Gallery my work is a variety of leather goods. I began working with this wonderful material in earnest in the early 70’s. Although I have worked with all kinds of leather, I absolutely love the feel of soft leather hides, preferably deer and elk skin and some butter-tanned cowhide. What sets my work apart is the construction: all stress points are double stitched for extra strength. I like to use the natural edges of the hides whenever possible, but the most noteworthy is that all the exposed stitching is done by hand. Only the seams which are not visible are done by machine.

Artists in Action

More from your favorite artists

Jerry Berry:

Will have a show called Impressions of a New England Fall located at Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Sacramento starting December 8. Second Saturday reception on December 10.

Jaime Baxter:

Pysanky work will be in The October issue of Sierra Style magazine.

Jane Welles:

Will be in the Banner Mountain Artisans show at the Nevada City Elks Lodge November 5 and 6. Details at www.bmanc.com/events.html

Ann Ranlett:

Scratchboard drawing "Percheron Power" has been accepted into the "Art at the Classic" equine art show at the Draft Horse Classic September 22 - 25. Details at www.nevadacountyfair.com/dhc

Sonja Hamilton:

Thirty watercolors of National Parks will show at Auburn City Hall from August 4 - October 4.

Watercolor classes by Sonja Hamilton through Placer School for Adults begin Sept. 6 & 8. Registration information: www.placeronline.org

Stacey Lamothe:

Will be selling her Bark-o-lishious art at Music in the Meadows at Animal Place Sanctuary October 8. animalplace.org/music_in_the_meadows and at the Davis Art Center Holiday show December 2, 3 & 4. www.davisartcenter.org/events.htm

Terry Accomando:

Has been invited to participate in a Ruth Rippon Alumni Show to be held in the Alpha Fired Arts Gallery in Sacramento September 15 - October 29. Fifty well known artists will be showing their work.

Joan Sexton:

Two of her encaustics have been accepted in the NCA Bold Expressions show October 4 - 29 at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center in Carmichael.

Reif Erickson, Sonja Hamilton, Rebecca Martinez, Rick & Janet Nicholson, Merridee & Keith Smith, Jay Stargaard, Jenny Stepp:

Will participate in the [Autumn Art Studios Tour](#) November 11-13. 67 artists will participate in this 3-day event sponsored by PlacerArts. Tickets and maps to each of the studios can be purchased for \$10 from [PlacerArts](#).