

What's Around the Corner?

President's Message

In our last newsletter I spoke cautiously about opening the gallery with COVID-19 safety measures in mind. We were open 2 days, only to close again as our County's infection rate rose dramatically. It's been almost three months and we're again planning to cautiously re-open. As with other area businesses and establishments, we've come to the realization that COVID-19 will probably be with us for the foreseeable future, with or without a vaccine, and our adjustments and precautions will be a part of our operations for some time. Masks, social distancing, and limited access will be observed as per health and safety recommendations, and with those in mind, we welcome your returning patronage.

Our current exhibit, Women in America, a 100 year Celebration of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment remains on our walls. This is the show that was mounted just prior to our recent closing which few people got to see. It will remain on exhibit until our Meet the Artist show in December. There may be additional adjustments to the schedule as the pandemic ebbs and flows through our lives.

The pandemic closures have also prompted us to explore other ways of presenting our wares and staying in touch with our fans. Linda Knoll, our new gallery director, has been working diligently to install a sales app on our web site so that member's art can be seen and purchased on line. This is a much-needed feature and will be continued into the future regardless of the gallery's openings and closings.



Contact Linda directly to participate in this member benefit.

Another programming change that has been prompted by the pandemic but will remain in the future involves the lecture program, Expose Yourself to Art. As with our other programs, this series had to be canceled for the year. Even with reopening, we would not be able to safely invite an assembly of people, the size of which usually attended, to be able to continue the program. It has been decided to modify the presentations and take them online as an interview show. These interviews will be streamed live on Sundays at 2:00 and will be

able to be seen on Facebook and YouTube. Linda Scheller, a local poet, has been doing similar interviews on the radio and will be joining me to co-host the program. The shows will also be recorded and available for additional viewing via our web site. Both members and artists from other genres will be interviewed, resulting in a member and educational benefit.

On a final note, Linda Knoll, Rebecca Wynn, and I are working on a local grant application to recoup some of the funds lost during our closures. We'll let you know the outcome as soon as we know.

David Schroeder, President

Meet the Artist Online Show for Member Artists

We're still accepting submissions to be included in our Meet the Artist web page. If you would like information on how to submit your work, please email ccaagallery@gmail.com or download the "How To" at <https://ccaagallery.org/meet-the-artist/>

Artists Talk About Their Life and Work

What better way to endure the slings and arrows of our current pandemic of COVID-19, wildfires, and convoluted politics than to listen to and share in stories of inspiration and creation. Beginning Sunday September 20th at 2:00 pm and continuing every Sunday thereafter, David Schroeder and Linda Scheller will sit down with artists of all genres and talk about the journeys they have taken as they have pursued the elusive flow of creativity in their lives. These shows will be streamed live via Facebook and You Tube and be made available for later viewing on our web site and Facebook page.

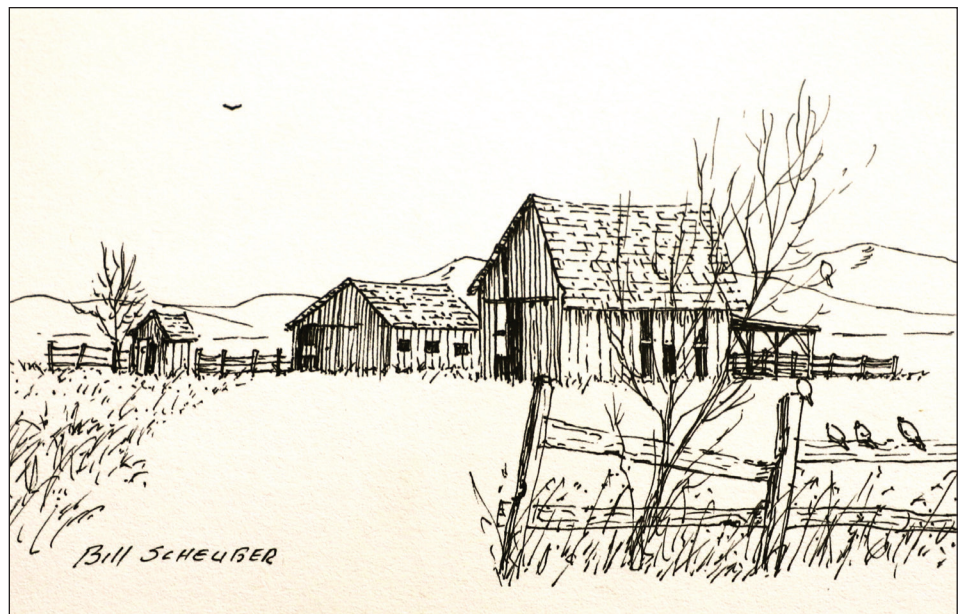
This on-line show will replace our lecture series of the same name that had to be canceled because of the pandemic and will feature many of the previously scheduled artists, including: Dr. David Chapman, The story and Art of Plucked instruments; Gillian Wegener & Stella Beratlis, Poetry; Aaron Vickery, Mural Art; Vance Whitaker, Stage Make-up; Ken White, Stories about Modesto; Rene Dav-eluy, The Art of the Dance; Jack Sousa, The Dramatic Arts; and Sandra Veneman. Balancing Art, Business & Life. For the complete lineup through November, visit the website at <https://ccaagallery.org/events-at-mistlin-gallery/expose-yourself-to-art/>

The original intent of the series was to bring in artists of different genres to expand the gallery's focus beyond that of the visual arts. However, with the change in format, we will also be focusing on our own member artists, (Nicole Slater and Bill Harris will be among our first guests) creating an additional benefit for being a member



and broadening our on-line presence as an addition to shows, such as, "Meet the Artist, and to help in promotion of sales through our developing, on-line store.

Stay tuned. This is a work-in-progress which we hope will become a major addition to our gallery.



In Memoriam: William Scheuber

Bill Scheuber, artist and long time member of CCAA, passed away in August. He was known for his quick pen and ink sketches on paper napkins depicting barns, fences and chickens running around the farm. Over the past few years, many of his miniature paintings were sold at the gift shop. He is remembered as a friendly and frequent visitor to the Mistlin Gallery.

Stanislaus



Central California Art Association

Arts Council Activities

As the revitalization of Stanislaus County Arts Council slogs along through the mire of the pandemic, (Zoom meetings weren't on the agenda when we applied for the grant) one function of the organization has already become clear – the support of and direction of funds to developing artists and art groups who are often on the fringe of a community's cultural core. Because of the pandemic's debilitating effects on struggling arts organizations, the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, has made available a substantial amount of money to support arts organizations and their employees to endure the economic hardships caused by the forced closure of their operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds Available to Arts Orgs of Color

In California, these funds are distributed through the California Arts Council to local SLPs (county arts councils). These funds have been specifically designated to support local arts and cultural organizations serving communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. To distribute these funds appropriately, we have had to expand our awareness

of arts groups in the County to include many of which we had little prior knowledge. We have contacted these organizations and have sent application forms that will allow them to apply for needed support. In doing this, we have, hopefully, opened up pathways to a more diverse view of the arts in our community.

If you would like more information about this program or know of communities of color organizations that might qualify for funds, contact Linda Knoll, gallery manager at ccaagallery@gmail.com or 209-247-2626.

Additionally, if you would be willing to serve on a committee to evaluate these grant applications in early November (online), please let us know.

Genre-based Zoom meetings scheduled

In the meantime, we have scheduled additional zoom meetings with persons of like interests to explore common concerns, seek avenues of interaction and collaboration, and elicit ideas for developing an arts council that meets the needs of our local community. So far, because Stanislaus has a wealth of robust arts groups (COVID-19 not-withstanding), the need seems to be one of communication and promotion. In this regard, we are looking for someone with a broad understanding of promotion and marketing to take on the daunting task of developing and maintaining website and social media presence about our activities and the state of the arts in our County (paid position).



When Life Gives You Lemons....

by David Schroeder

Nothing stimulates creativity like a little adversity. There's no question that one of the groups that's been hit hardest by the pandemic is the performing arts. No audience. No performance. Even with a vaccine, it's unlikely that large crowds of closely packed people will be seen again for some time. When it first started, we sat by quietly, waiting for a miracle that would again fill the empty seats. Seven months later, we're still waiting, and getting tired of sitting around. While performance artists were at first hesitant to make changes in their operating procedures (a return to normal was thought to be around the corner), it eventually became apparent that change might be necessary for survival. The most obvious change was to go "online" with performances – not an easy transition for performing artists who thrive on the interaction with a live audience.

But there was little other choice. At **Mistlin Gallery** we are adding an on-line store to our website (ccaagallery.org) and began conducting live-streamed interviews with artists who we had originally scheduled for in-person presentations at the gallery.

Prospect Theater Project, under the direction of Jack Souza scheduled the first two productions in their 2020-21 season as streaming videos. When asked about this approach, Jack said that although online ticket sales would not equal that of live theater attendance, it was important to

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Lemons by Francis Haidar

Lemons

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give something back to his sponsors and season ticket holders, and to keep the PTP name visible and viable. Access season schedule and ticket information at prospecttheaterproject.org.

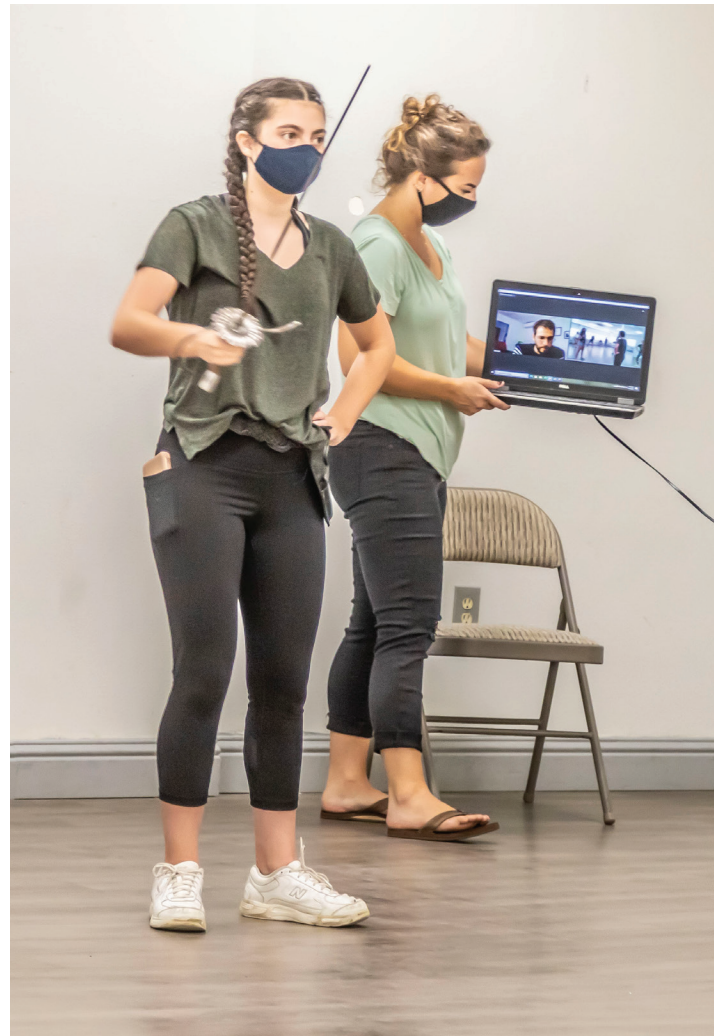
A few blocks away, Jim Johnson and Wes Page of the **Gallo Center Repertory Company**, have begun creating streamed “virtual theater” radio plays – taking radio scripts and turning them into visual adaptations. It is in the creation of these productions that the creativity demanded by COVID-19 can be seen. As Wes Page says, “*Making these half-hour movies*

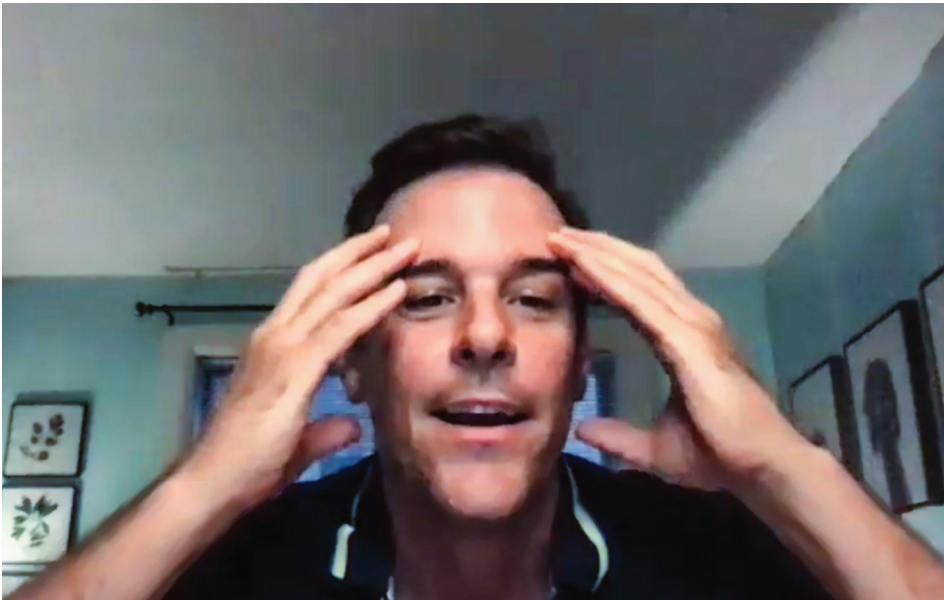


in a socially distant, virtual environment can be challenging for the actors as well as the filmmaker.

Each actor performs alone in front of a green screen with no fellow actors around to interact with. Rather than memorizing lines, the actor reads lines from a teleprompter. Scenes that show 2 or more actors at the same time are most challenging for the filmmaker, especially in post-production when action, shot at different times in different locations have to be blended to look as though taking place at the same time and place. At this point, they have completed 6 virtual productions, available for free viewing free at gallocenterrepertorycompany.org.

Yet another level of creative adaptation can be seen in the online migration taking place at **Opera Modesto**. In the words of Roy Stevens, artistic director, “Although most regional youth performing arts programs were cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, Opera Modesto continued the program by moving almost entirely online to Zoom; 394 classes, lectures, lessons, trainings and stagings in 8 days, in 10 Zoom Rooms, for 28 young artists. The final two days consisted of in-person, outdoors, distanced





Jeremy Stolle, Broadway Phantom

filming of the final concert in front of a 50' green screen. The young opera singers received training, via Zoom, from many remarkable guest artists across the country, including international opera singers, a leading New York artist's agent/manager, the leading US Latino opera composer, and Modesto's own Phantom of the Opera star, Jeremy Stolle." The amazing thing about this event is that the specialized attention these students received came about primarily because COVID-19 had put everyone out of work and they all welcomed the opportunity to get off their sofas and participate in something creative.

I was fortunate to get a first-hand look at this new way of doing business when I attended one of Opera Modesto's rehearsals for their newest creation, *The Race*, an opera for young artists based on Aesop's Fables. As I watched the dance rehearsal for a scene based on the tale of a bear, bees, and honey, (all performers wore masks and social distancing was insured by the fact that the dancers who were to be bees, all had lengthy, pointed spears (symbolic of bee stingers) which precluded them getting too close to each

other.) I heard a disembodied voice directing the choreography. Since everyone was masked, I assumed someone, somewhere in the room was speaking. It was when I paid attention to a woman circling the room with a lap-top computer that I finally discovered what was going on. The voice of the dance instructor, J Tyler Jones, was coming from the computer as he viewed the action, via Zoom, from his location near Washington D.C. Wow! For more information, see operamodesto.org

In my brief survey of the performing arts response to COVID-19 in our area, I came away impressed and enlivened by the evidence of creativity arising from the muck and mire of the pandemic. The challenges of the quarantine, in many instances, resulted in unique and unexpected avenues for artistic expression.



Exhibition Schedule in place for 2021

We're feeling optimistic about the exhibition schedule for 2021, although considering current events, we must remain flexible.

The year will start out with a show of "quarantine" art work. Be prepared to submit things you've been working on inspired by this tumultuous time. Contact Tony Pooler for information on this show.

Another **Foto Modesto** will happen in February and March will be the annual **Young@Art** student show. We've rescheduled a couple of the shows that were cancelled this year including the **Fiber Art Show** with Crossroads Country Quilters, and the **Plein Aire Little to Big** show organized by Chella, Rick Ingraham and Jan Hardie. Starting in the spring we'll be converting most of our shows to an online entry process through Smarter Entries.

Some new shows coming next year will include a **college student exhibition** and an environmental conservation themed open show featuring works inspired by **nature and our national parks**. The highlight of that show will be nine large fiber art murals that were commissioned for Yosemite National Park in the 1980s. Artist, Miriam McNitt, created the pieces for the walls of the visitor center theater where they resided for over 30 years.

Rounding out the year will be the return of the **Autumn Art Festival** juried show and the **Complementary Therapy** show in November.

The exhibition committee is looking for some new members with fresh ideas for the future. If you're interested in being part of the planning for exhibitions, contact Marianne Ward by email at marianneward3@icloud.com or by phone 209-203-6257.

We've reopened with limited hours

Yes, we really have re-opened. But, of course there's always a chance we'll be required to close again. But our plan is to be open **Thursdays and Fridays, from 11:30 - 5:00 and Saturdays from noon to 4:00.** Masks



and social distancing are required. We have masks available, and we're taking other precautions with cleanliness and plexiglass barriers.

Since we barely had a chance to show ***Women in America: A Celebration***, it will remain up through November 6. Pieces honor the 100 year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

Receiving for the ***Meet the Artist*** member show, which was postponed from April, will be

Saturday, Nov. 7. That show will run through December 23rd.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to have any large crowd gatherings such as Art Walk, or Mod Shop. But we hope you'll stop by

for some holiday shopping.

If you're still wary about going out and about, we understand. *Meet the Artist* online is an ongoing feature of the website now, and artists will continue to be added. We have also added a shop feature to the website, so you can purchase pieces online as well. Purchases can be picked up or delivered locally, or we can add shipping as needed.

We hope you're staying healthy and creative!

The gallery has lost a significant amount of revenue because of the shut down of businesses and schools. Would you consider making an extra donation?

Central California Art Association is a 501c3 non-profit. We use donations to run Mistlin Gallery, including art exhibitions, programs, classes for children and adults, and art education programs in area schools. **Donations can be mailed to 1015 J Street, Modesto 95354 or made online at <http://ccaagallery.org> through PayPal or by credit card. We appreciate your generosity!**



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