

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

It's been a rough year, but the end appears to be in sight. The distribution of vaccines to counter COVID-19 is under way and we're hopeful that a dent will be made in the pandemic so that we can get on the road back to normal. In light of this good news, we've decided to fully open the gallery beginning in June – specific date to coincide with the opening of the show scheduled for that month, and the availability of docents. Following on this same positive path and based on the fact that all members have been vaccinated, the board has decided to meet face-to-face at our next meeting for the first time in almost a year. We've also begun to optimistically solidify the exhibition schedule for the remainder of the year without the fear of another closure. It may be a while before we can again embrace group activities such as the 3rd Thursday Art Walk, artists receptions, and cabaret performances, but our first small steps are headed in the right direction. I'm looking forward to again being able to freely come and go at the gallery, see the art on the walls and chat with the artists – hope to see you there.

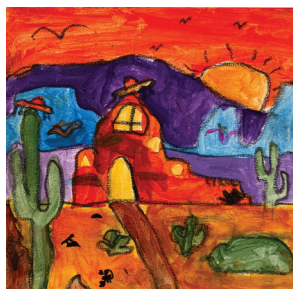
In other news from the board, several members have



raised the issue of the need for continued funding when the contract between Tony Mistlin and the gallery relative to the rent of our space, ends in 2023. Although there is no immediate cause for concern, it was decided to formally begin a search for funds that will support the gallery beyond the end of the contract. This will be an ongoing process and any ideas and suggestions you have in this regard will be appreciated.

David Schroeder, President, CCAA Board

Young at Art 2021 a tribute to student resilience



Mistlin Gallery is happy to present this year's **Young@Art** annual student exhibition. While a bit smaller than in previous years, there were over 140 entries by children ages 3 - 19. The Best of Show entry for older students was "Be Good to Yourself, Be Good to Others" by Maxell Radillo of Central Valley High School in Ceres. Juror, Henrietta Sparkman was impressed with the story depicted in this ball point pen drawing. "My Pueblo" by 8 year old James Lara was the younger student Best of Show. He attends Sacred Heart School in Patterson.

Additional awards went to the following students: Age 3-7 category: 1st place Birdies by Valentina Villarreal, Sacred Heart School; 2nd place Popsicles by Roland Gay of Fremont Open Plan; 3rd place Macaws by Peyton Beltran, Sacred Heart School. Age 8-11 category: 1st place Howl by Lexie Connell of Sea Crest school; 2nd place Distant Waterfall by Macklin Connell, homeschool; 3rd place, Flames, by Eli Wiebe, Lakewood Elementary. Jr. High School category: 1st place Overtaken by Jim Peralta, Turlock Jr. High; 2nd place Pride and Joy by Deziree Meister, Turlock Jr. High; 3rd place You Are My Sunflower by Jack Hosner, Roosevelt Jr. High. High School category: 1st place Rock Mouse JA JA JA by Ashley Corro, Central Valley High School; 2nd place Ophelia by Iris Flores, Delhi High School; 3rd place Alone Together by Michelle Lozada, Delhi High School. Photography category: 1st place Living in the Park by Stephanie Jevert, Turlock Christian; 2nd place Frozen Memories by Skye Jones, Modesto Christian; 3rd place Contemplative by Claire Ma, Modesto Christian.

April Show focuses on Yosemite and the Environment

Benefit Sale Planned Online and In Person

The *Yosemite Tapestries* and *Preserving Our Wilderness* exhibition opens April 1 to 30. Current gallery hours are Thursday and Friday 11:30 - 5:00 and Saturday 12:00 to 4:00 or by appointment. Visit our website at ccaagallery.org for additional information.

Nine large panels by Miriam McNitt (1917-2002) will be featured in the main gallery during this open exhibition. The “tapestries” are yarn paintings that were originally commissioned by Yosemite National Park. They hung in the visitor center theater from 1977 to 2013. Three large pieces (7'x8') describe the natural biomes within the park boundaries. Six smaller panels (7'x4') tell the cultural history of the park, from its Native tribes, to John Muir's visits, to Camp Curry's creation, through the 1970s when the works were created. More recently, the stitcheries were part of the John Muir Geotourism center located in Coulterville from 2015 to 2018. McNitt was a noted fiber artist from the Fresno area, who lived and worked in Yosemite for a time, and retired to Modesto with her family in the 1980s.

In addition to the tapestries, there will be an open show of art from regional artists on the wide-ranging theme of wildlife, wilderness, environmentalism and the conservation of our National Parks.

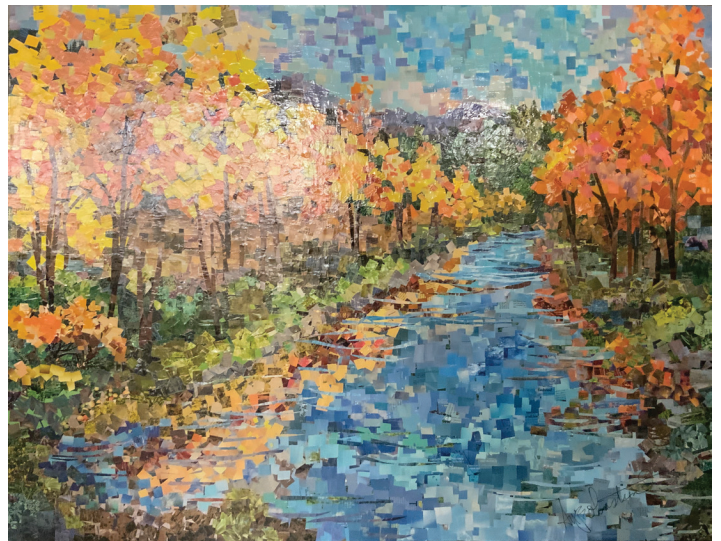
Show host, Linda Knoll, hopes for an exhibit that delves deeply into our relationship with the earth. “Now, more than ever,” she states, “we need to understand that humans are intricately tied to the environment and we must work to preserve it for future generations.”

Accompanying the exhibition will be an online and in-person fundraising sale of several works that have been donated to the gallery in recent years. The sale of these works will benefit the gallery's ongoing efforts to provide high quality art experiences for area residents. Original art works by Dan Peterson, Anje Olmstead, John Barnett, Christine Campbell, Edna Mellis and others will be included in the special sale. Watch your inbox for more information on how to bid on these pieces.

We'd like to thank the Yokuts group of the Sierra Club for their donation to help with this show.



One of the Yosemite Tapestries by Miriam McNitt



This collage piece by Anje Olmstead will be up for auction. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the gallery.

Volunteers Wanted to Address Diversity, Fundraising

As we get back to work after enduring closures and social unrest, Central California Art Association is in need of addressing several issues.

CCAA recognizes the need to **show the community our support for, and actions toward being more inclusive and equitable** in our membership, as well as our programming and organizational leadership. To address these questions, we invite members and non-members to join us in a conversation about ways CCAA can be more aware and inclusive in our diverse community.

Additionally, as noted in David's president's message, **fundraising for ongoing support** will be a priority for the

next couple of years. If you are interested in helping with activities such as potential and ongoing donor contact, donor appreciation, event planning, and other activities related to fundraising, please let us know.

Committee work in a number of areas would also welcome new participants, particularly the **education committee** which organizes workshops and classes in the gallery's education center. **Exhibition committee** also welcomes new voices and ideas about the shows we present.

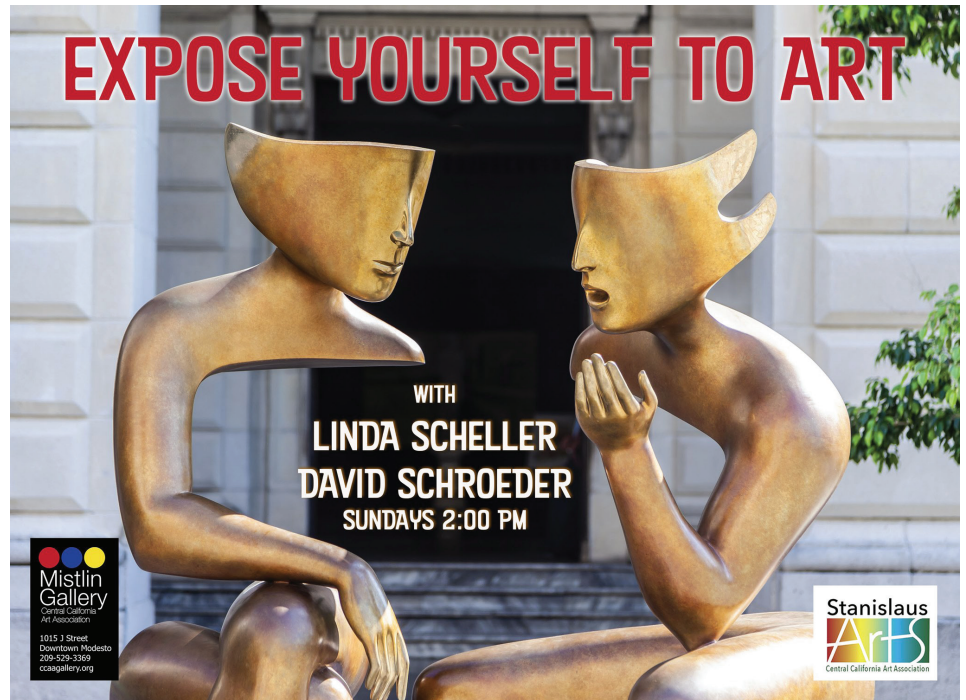
If you'd be interested in participating in any of these capacities, please call Linda at 209-247-2626, or email ccaagallery@gmail.com

Expose Yourself to Art - Virtual Conversations

A Spotlight on the Creative Process

As the Arts Council for Stanislaus County, we've been tasked with the mandate to interact with, support, and promote the artists and arts organizations in our community – a process made more complicated by COVID-19. With direct human activity having been greatly inhibited we took to the airways to fulfill at least a semblance of the job. By inviting artists from all genres to come on the show and discuss their life and art, we've developed a way of finding out who the players are in our cultural community, what they're doing, and what they might need. Initially, we thought we'd just do the podcast until we could again communicate in person.

In the interim, we discovered that this might be an effective way to shine a spotlight and promote our local artists and arts organization. With this in mind, we intend to continue with our online interviews even after all pandemic restrictions are lifted. We will also add an informational segment to the show, highlighting current artistic events in the community. So, with that in mind, maybe it's time for you to tune in on Sundays or catch up by viewing the recordings of past shows to find out who's doing what artistically in our vastly talented community. More than 20 talks have been recorded and include such cultural stars as: Nicole Slater, artist; Jack Sousa (picture bottom right), actor and Artistic Director of Prospect Theater; Rene Daveluy, Artistic Director of CentralWest Ballet; Sam Pierstorff, poet; Vance Whitaker (picture right), Stage Make Up Artist; Greg Savage, photographer and co-founder of Sankofa Theater Company; Ken White, author; and the Stevens family of Opera Modesto.



If you would like to catch us live, Sundays at 2:00 pm you can watch on Facebook or YouTube by using one of the following links. The same links also give you access to past shows to be watched at any time. And, if you have an artistic event that you would like to have publicized, send us the information and we'll put it on air.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MistlinGallery>

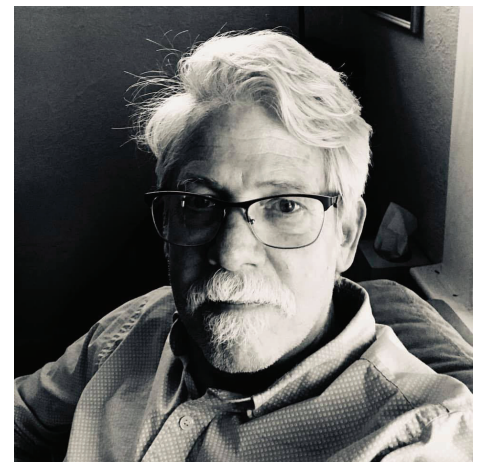
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoV9G-8h_5RuB-Xaw-7CvAm204T8X9q8L-



Coming up soon:

April 11: A talk about the John Muir Geotourism Center and the Yosemite Tapestries, along with pieces from the current show.

April 18: Warren Haack, filmmaker and sound designer, professor of sound engineering at DeAnza College.



The Race: International Award Winner!

I'd mentioned this Opera Modesto production in a previous issue, pointing out how one performing arts company was dealing with the pandemic shut-down by creating a movie of a musical based on Aesop's Fables. It now appears that this original, locally composed and produced opera for young people has become an international sensation. Since COVID-19 prevented the scheduled premiere of the film, the company filled the void by submitting it to a variety of film festivals around the world – and it's been winning! So far, the film has been declared a winner of a variety of awards, including several for **Best Musical Film** and at least one each for **Best Production Design, Best Director, Best Costume Design, Best Screenplay and Best Makeup and Hair** – with more to come. These wins are in festivals in New York, Rome, Milano, Florence, Cannes, and Calcutta. WOW and CONGRATULATIONS!

[THE RACE: An Aesop's Fables Mash Up: Commissioned and Produced by Opera Modesto. Composed by Deborah Kavasch. Libretto by Linda Bunney-Sarhad. Directed by Carolina Stevens. Conducted by Liisa Davila. Costumes by Kellani Gleave.



Make Up by Vance Whitaker. Filmed and Edited by Michael Everett.]

Recognizing Local Talent

Since CCAA has taken on the mantle of Arts Council for the County, we've had the mandate to acquaint ourselves with the various arts organizations throughout the region in order to support and promote the arts in our community. Pursuing this mandate on a personal level, I've been amazed at the depth of artistic talent that resides among us. In a way, it's not too surprising that Opera Modesto has been recognized for their achievements. Our community is home to many artists and organizations with world class

talent, which because they're local, we regard as normal, not recognizing their brilliance until being seen from the perspective of the larger world. It is our hope to be able to find a way to shine a spotlight on this immense pool of talent that gives life to our community's cultural core.

– David Schroeder



Follow our Facebook page and Instagram to keep up on all things art in Stanislaus County. And feel free to share your arts events there as well!

<https://www.facebook.com/stanislaus-artsCouncil>

@StanislausArts on Instagram

CCAA receives support from and has been designated as the Arts Council of Stanislaus County by the



Entries for June show due before May 9 on SmarterEntry



Show Dates: June 1st through June 25th, 2021
Art Reception June 17th, 5:00 - 8:00

Mistlin Gallery/Central California Art Assoc.
1015 J St. Modesto, CA 95354
209-529-3369
ccaagallery.org
Hours: Tues. - Fri. 11:30 - 5, Sat. 12-4

“Visions Reimagined” is an open, regional juried art show to be presented at the Mistlin Gallery, open June 1st and closing June 25th 2021. The reception and awarding of prizes will be held during Art Walk Thursday, June 17th 5:00 to 8:00 pm. (pending health guidelines).

This show will consist of the artist creating a small piece of art or sketch in plein air and enlarging this artwork into a larger studio piece. Both framed pieces will curate together. All plein air traditional medium will be accepted. There will be no categories. Non-landscape entries will also be accepted.

Juror and Judge: Leslie H. Hurst of Jamestown, CA. B.A. in Fine Arts from Washington State University. Her works may be seen at Studio B. Sonora CA and at Pinecrest Gallery, Pinecrest, CA

Awards: Monetary prizes and ribbons will be awarded for Best of Show (\$200.00). First Place (\$100.00) Second Place (\$75.00) Third Place (\$50.00). Honorable mention ribbons will be awarded. People’s Choice award of \$50.00 plus 1 year membership to CCAA will be presented at the Thursday, June 18th Art Walk.

Submission of Works: All artwork must be submitted online by <https://client.smarterentry.com/ccartassn> . Image upload and payment must be done through SmarterEntry. Entry deadline is **May 9th at 5:00 pm**. All artwork must be original and suitable for community viewing. All work must be dry, framed, wired, taped and ready to hang including the smaller pieces. Each artist will be required to sign Waiver of Loss or Damage at the time of physical delivery to gallery. Mistlin gallery requires a 40% commission on each piece sold. Artists should price their pieces accordingly. Both little and big pieces must be priced individually. Unsold artwork must be picked up Sat. June 26th 10 am to 4 pm, no exceptions.

Fees and Number of Entries: Each artist may submit up to 2 sets (1 Sm & 1 Lg) at \$20.00 per set. Accepted entries whose perimeters are greater than 160 inches including frame will be charged an additional \$10 handling fee at the time of physical drop off. Maximum perimeter is 300 inches.

Calendar of Events

- May 9th – Entry deadline at 5:00 pm at <https://client.smarterentry.com/ccartassn>
- May 15th – 16th Notifications of selection by email.
- May 29th – Hand deliver art to Mistlin Gallery 1015 J St. Modesto CA 10 am to 5 pm. The gallery is not accepting works that are shipped.
- June 1st – Show opens. Gallery hrs are 11 am to 5 pm. Tuesday thru Saturday.
- June 17th – Art Walk Reception 5 pm to 8 pm. Prizes to be awarded 7 pm.
- June 25th Show closes.
- June 26th – All artwork must be picked up Saturday 10 am to 4 pm.

Here is an example entry by Chella that includes a small plein air “sketch” and an accompanying larger studio piece.





Watercolor by Tony Pooler

Art in the Time of Covid Open May 4 - 28

When many artists found themselves “sheltering in place”, they became more productive, and sometimes more creative as well. Art in the Time of COVID will feature recent works by our talented Central California Art Association artists and crafters. Entries are already set for this show. If you have questions about entry or procedures, contact Tony Pooler at acp42@sbcglobal.net

Calling all Docents

As you know, Mistlin Gallery has been either closed or partially open for almost an entire year due to COVID-19. We are planning to fully open starting June 1st and so we will be looking for all of our docents to return to keep the doors open at our previous level of service. We are hoping most of our docents will be vaccinated and ready to come back to warm the chair behind the docent desk and greet patrons as they return. We will continue our sanitation procedures, mask wearing and social distancing during this time. The plexiglass protectors will remain around the desk.

We are always looking for members to volunteer as docents or to serve on committees. If you are an artist and work six or more hours a month, you can qualify for a 25% commission rate rather than the normal 40% commission on all of your sales. Those who would like to volunteer as docents, please contact Dixie Zambruno to schedule a training or to work a shift. We have missed seeing you and look forward to a return to “almost normal” conditions.

In Memoriam

Alan Richards, former board member, photographer and supporter of the gallery for many years, passed away recently. Condolences to family may be sent to 29190 Ridgestone Drive, Menifee CA 92584.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf3zr0Hn-UuQURj!boWcHJuo>
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