

Lamorinda ARTS ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

April 2011

www.laa4art.org

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep."

- Hal Borland

Message from LAA President

About a week before the earthquake in Japan occurred, I had the wonderful pleasure of visiting the renowned Japanese potter Shoji Hamada's Studio and Museum in the town of Mashiko, Japan. The town was a potter's dream with a multitude of potteries, climbing kilns and stores



filled with beautiful handmade pots to buy. It is north of Tokyo toward Sendai and therefore subsequently suffered much damage from the earthquake. (We were thankfully home safely when it happened.) There were no casualties, but I think of all those beautiful pots and climbing kilns and know they are now damaged and not as I saw them. We certainly keep our fellow Japanese potters and artists in mind as they struggle to recover and rebuild.

On a different note, the Bedford Gallery's "Land of Magic: Artists Explore Make-Believe" opens April 10 with the opening reception on Thursday, April 14, 6 to 8 p.m. It promises to be an interesting show. I hope the arrival of spring is providing inspiration and energy for all in their creative endeavors.

Donna Arganbright
LAA President



"April Palette" by Natalia Udaltsova, photograph

LAA General Meetings

It has been one year since we revived our General Meetings. Our collective endeavors to expand, market, lead and enrich our Lamorinda Art Community are beginning to have an energizing effect, and an increase in a sense of our belonging to a dynamic group; from meeting our associate members, learning new skills, and exchanging ideas. Marketing our Art is our next subject.

Please mark your calendar, call a friend, and we will see you on the 2nd Tuesday in May, at the new Lafayette Studio. Details will be in the next newsletter and e-mails reminders will be sent out also. We need you!

Landscape Painting Group

We meet every Tuesday, if our rather inclement weather will permit, and the information regarding our choice of sites will be e-mailed to all interested. On Tuesday, April 5 we plan to go to Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve off Donald Drive in Moraga. Mulholland Ridge, according to the description by Mariann, is the "Top of the World", our world anyway. Judy also recommended this site. Any Questions, please call or e-mail, Vice President, of Outreach and Enrichment, Beryl Glen-Reiland, at 925-253-9488, or e-mail ishbel8@comcast.net.

Beryl Glen-Reiland,
LAA Outreach and Enrichment



<http://laa4art.org>

LAA website has new look!

Now with more functionality, images, and colors! You can have your links and images posted on LAA website. Please contact **Natalia Udaltsova** at udalnata@gmail.com with any questions or artist's information.

Moraga Community Faire

May 14, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Registration deadline is **April 15**. Space is limited – first come, first served!

The Artist entry fee (\$30) includes one 10x10 foot space, an eight-foot table and chair. Canopies are highly recommended to protect from sun and wind. If you do not own one, there are a limited number available for rental at \$35. 3x6 display panels may be rented from the LAA; see our website (laa4art.org) to download order form. This year, registration will be handled directly by the Faire committee. Please download and complete the **Vendor** and **Kimco Agreement** forms. Completed forms should be sent to Kathe Nelson as indicated on the form. Please call Bill Klapproth 925/376-0708 (until April 25th) or Donna Arganbright (925/283-8376) after April 26th if you have questions.

Application forms and detail information is at http://laa4art.org/moraga_faire.html.

Artists' Market

The **Lafayette Gallery** will hold its outside summer **Artists' Markets** again this summer.

May 21, June 18, July 16 and August 20

Time: **11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Fee: **\$50** for one event; discounts for multiple events

The Gallery parking lot is transformed into an inviting outdoor marketplace. Commission on sales: **NONE**

For more information please contact **Warren Rice**: 925-284-4064, ricesrices1@gmail.com

Details are in March LAA Newsletter and at <http://laa4art.org/agreement.pdf>.

October 22 and 23

LAMORINDA ARTS ALLIANCE
OPEN STUDIOS - 2011

Do what you love: Make art.
And show it to the world at your Open Studio.

Lafayette Studio News

Sign up now for Spring Classes at Lafayette Studio!

Watercolor: Continuing. Mira M. White, Instructor. Mondays 9:30-12:30 pm 4/11 - 6/27 no class 4/25, 5/30

Drawing Towards Painting. Mira M. White. Mondays 7-10 pm 4/11 - 6/27 no class 4/25, 5/30

Abstract Painting in Acrylic. Tesia Blackburn Tuesdays 12-3 pm 3/29 – 6/7 no class May 31

Painting Like the Old Masters. Jody Mattison. Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 p.m. 3/29 – 6/7 no class April 26

Beginning and Continuing Oil and Acrylic Painting

Just Added! Hilary Lambert. Wednesdays 9:30-12:30 p.m. 4/6 – 5/11.

Expressive Figure Painting Group. No instructor. Thursdays ongoing 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Drawing with Confidence. Patsy Taylor, Instructor. Fridays 9 – 12 4/1 – 6/10, no class Apr 29

Application & Techniques of Landscape Painting for Oils & Acrylics Just Added! Mark Jezierny. Fridays 4-6pm Each session: 4 weeks \$125.00. **Session 1:** April 1, 8, 15 & 22. **Session 2:** May 6, 13, 20 & 27. **Session 3:** June 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Landscape Painting from Studio to Plein Air. Patsy Taylor, Instructor. Saturdays 10-1 p.m. 4/2 – 6/11, no class May 14, May 21.

Atelier Afternoon... drop in and paint. Jody Mattison. Saturdays 3-6 p.m. 4/2 – 6/11, no class Apr 9, 23, 30

Weekend Workshops at Lafayette Studio

Figure Painting Open Studio. Jody Mattison, coordinator. Sundays monthly, 1-5 p.m. April 17, May 15
Expressive Figure Painting. Lin Fischer, Instructor. March 27th, Sunday 10-5 p.m.

Pouring & Layering Techniques in Aquamedia – My Style!

Mira M. White, instructor April 9-10, Sat/ Sun. 10-4 pm

Monoprint without a Press with Golden OPEN. Tesia Blackburn. April 23 (change of date) 11-5 pm

Locker Membership

For artists who want a studio environment, store some supplies at the studio and work there whenever there is not a class in session. Fee includes a locker, a limited amount of space to store several works-in-progress, and studio time. Membership, \$75/month. For information go to <http://lafayettetstudio.org/locker-members/> or email jmattison@jodymattison.com

Lafayette Gallery news

Out With the Old, In With the New

We're cleaning house and invite you to shop our back room for specially discounted works of art. Our artists have chosen work to discount 20, 25, 30 percent or more. With over 100 pieces in our backroom, you are sure to find



"Tessa" by Carla Gelbaum, acrylic on canvas

something you like. There are paintings, prints, ceramics, collages, jewelry, photography, sculpture, cards and much more.

New stock will be arriving daily. A bargain hunter's dream!

And while the back room may yield some treasures, our front room gallery features a broad selection of newly created art, ceramics and jewelry. The warm yellows, rich teals and vibrant oranges confirm that springtime is here.



Green Basket by Martha Kean, carved ceramic

Lafayette Gallery Sculpture Garden

A special Sunday afternoon reception is scheduled for April 10 from 1 – 3 p.m. to celebrate our show and the reopening of our Sculpture Garden. Spring is here and it is time to step outside into the garden. If you are looking for something special for your deck, yard or patio, we invite you to visit the new exhibit of the Lafayette Gallery Sculpture Garden. Sculpture Garden curator Joe Bologna

says, "Our new exhibit contains an awesome huge steel spider, ceramic sea serpent, elegant garden totem, metal discs based on designs inspired samurai swords, a gigantic worm and cool molded glass. The collection includes sculptures by artists David Mudgett, Susan Sandler, Cheryl Wolff, Lisa Lee, Philippe Lavaud and Joe Bologna.

Lisa Lee's whimsical creations are drawn from pop culture and mythology. Her work exudes a tongue-in-cheek playfulness. Susan Sandler has shown us how to bring gorgeous and vibrant slumped glass out of the house and into the garden, where it catches the California sun, adds its color and sends it in all directions. Joe Bologna's animal collection is cartoon like and child inspired. David Mudgett designs one of a kind metal sculptures mainly of welded steel combined with natural elements. Despite being very large, they are created with meticulous attention to detail and possess a very light spirit. Philippe Lavaud created two 25 inch circular pieces inspired by a dancing crane decorating the hilt of a 15th century samurai sword. Cheryl Wolff created a fanciful porcelain totem, topped with a bird house. This is a departure from her functional and elegant ceramic pottery, for which she is best known.

Sculpture in this year's collection ranges in price from \$60 to \$600. Bologna says: "We are excited to bring moderately priced, one-of-a-kind pieces that will provide visual delight to your home and garden."



"Barracuda" by Joe Bologna, metal sculpture

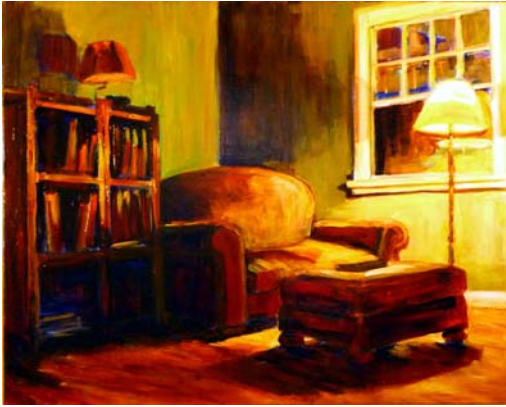
Lafayette Gallery

50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette CA 94549
Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

925-284-2788 <http://www.lafayettegallery.net>

Moraga Art Gallery News

Moraga Art Gallery is sporting a new (web) look! Check out www.moragaartgallery.com to see its fresh look with loads of information and photos. Add your name to our e-mail list to receive notices of show changes and receptions. You can also find MAG on Facebook. "Friend" us and you will be the first to know about new work by member artists.



"Quiet Corner" by Joanne Taeuffer, oil on canvas

Joanne Taeuffer joins Moraga Art Gallery as guest artist for its new show, ***Chiarascuro: Light and Shadow***. The show runs through June 6.

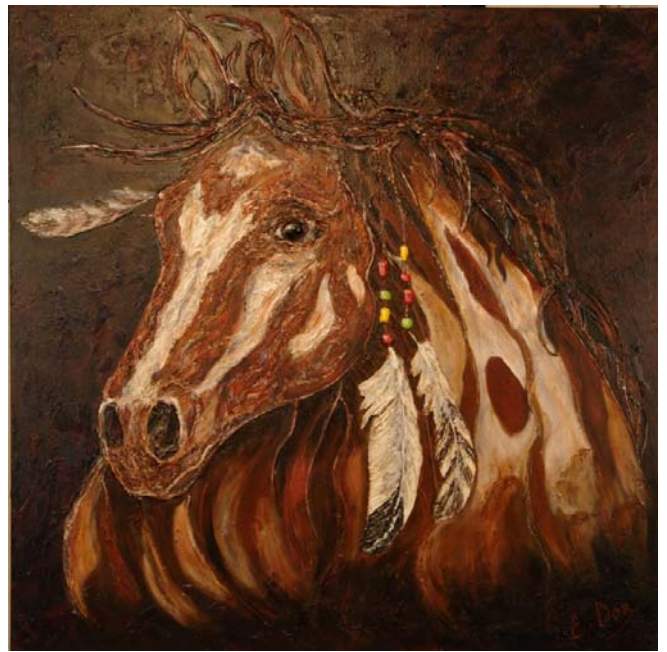
The works in this exhibit are based on the attraction of light within the dark: the glow of the storefronts along Taeuffer's hometown main street, the shimmering chandeliers in a festive restaurant or simply a corner with a welcoming chair and reading light.



"Colors of Play" by Elena Doronkina, mixed media

Elena Doronkina, oil and mixed media painter, is the gallery's newest member. Elena was born in Sverdlovsk, Russia, and lived in Uzbekistan, Central Asia, from the time she was 11 years old. As far back as she remembers Elena spent time drawing and dreaming of being an artist.

In 1999, she moved to California with her husband and two children. For the past 10 years, Elena has focused her creative energy on painting on canvas, as well as creating faux finishes and murals in homes around the Bay Area. Elena's work can also be seen at Blackhawk Gallery, Blackhawk Plaza, Danville.



"The Spirit" by Elena Doronkina, mixed media

Moraga Art Gallery is a cooperative of established local artists and artisans. We carry a wide range of quality art and fine craft, in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings; photographs; kiln-fired glass; pottery; fabrics; fired clay and bronze sculpture; and more.

Moraga Art Gallery

570 Center St, Moraga 94556

Rheem Valley Shopping Center next to CVS Drugs

Tuesday – Sunday, 12 – 5 pm.

925 376-5407

Gallery website: www.moragaartgallery.com

UN / TITLED ART

Douglas Riggs, Lafayette Studio

Sometimes it's perplexing for artists to figure out what to call the result of an essentially non-verbal experience, since naming can be a profound appropriation of meaning and therefore of understanding and appreciation. Furthermore, an artist's tendency to title work in a certain way often indicates the origin of their art spirit. What makes mature work is the artist's ability to universalize the particular, which means that sentimentality--the glorification of the particular--must be avoided except, of course, when making propaganda.

An academic terminology (involving a simple, objective description of form and content, such as "Still Life with Knife and Onions") tends to elevate the tone of a piece to a more serious aesthetic level, although the academic use of irony usually becomes nothing more than pompous, condescending sarcasm. And beware--titles with colons in them are pretentiously over-explanatory, without exception. Personalizing a title (as in "Amber's Favorite Things") alienates viewers who don't happen to belong to the artist's implied intimate group, which is most of us;



"His Eye is On the Sparrow" by Dorothy Gager, Moraga Art Gallery

indulging in poetic license ("Romantic Reverie" or "Peaceful Zinnias") panders to shallow emotional responses rooted in a pleasure principle devoid of any expansive aesthetic or critical feeling. In the best case, however, the emotional tone of a piece can be tuned pitch-perfect by a thoughtful title.

So, the fewer words in a title the better. One-word titles may be the best, though the feeble compromise of titling something "Untitled" means that eventually someone will attempt to differentiate a body of such work with numbers, colons, parenthetical descriptions, and other devices of commercial and scholarly accounting. A careful study of the great works of art history will help the artist to appreciate the deep resonance of simple naming in order to describe the complex work of speaking the visual language of art.

Letter to LAA Members

18 January 2011

Dear Friends,

Some of you have already heard and some you have not, but Diane passed away yesterday evening after 2 ½ month battle with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Pneumonia got her in the end because her body was too weak from the leukemia (and I'm sure the chemotherapy) to fight it off. I sit here in disbelief and sadness at how this vibrant, energetic, young-for-her-age 64 yr. old woman could be taken from us so quickly. In the midst of this horrible tragic ending, there were some beautiful moments at the hospital when Tenaya, Dakota, Diane's 93 yr. old father, several of her closest friends and I all bonded together to praise Diane's life. Aftr much sharing of Diane stories, I played the final cut on the Cirque du Soleil's Mystere CD "Kalimondo" – a favorite of Diane's that she loved to dance to. Then I left the room and told the doctor to remove the remaining life support respirator from Diane. When I returned and before the nurse even came in to remove the respirator, Diane passed away. It's as if she heard me and new it was time. While there are many moments of this experience that are fixated in my mind, seeing Diane's 93 year-old father and our two children weep openly while showing such love for Diane, will stand out forever.

Your outpouring of love and support has been wonderful and life-giving. Please understand that while my response may be somewhat slow since I have a lot on my platter right now, I deeply appreciate each of your responses. The mold was broken after Diane was made. She was truly a unique (sometimes controversial) character loved deeply by all of us.

With love, Austin G. Hurst

".....bury the rug, deep in your face, now is the time for your tears." (Bob Dylan)

Wenda Pyman personal shows

East Bay Artists Guild Group Show, 105
Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA
Open 24/7 (storefronts exhibit)

My permanent exhibition: Handworks of
Danville, 155A Railroad Avenue, Danville, CA.
Open: Mon-Sat 10-5:30 pm, Sunday 12-5 pm.



"Spring" by Natalia Udaltsova, photograph

SX Custom Frames & Stretcher Bars



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"Floater Frames"
and custom
stretcher bars at
great prices!

Contact **Shanon**
for more
information.

Tel: **415-515-0020**

Email: essexshanon@yahoo.com
Website: www.shanonessex.com

Your correspondence is appreciated.

We ask you to send any information regarding shows, events, exhibits, or special art projects LAA members might be doing to newsletter editor **Natalia Udaltsova** via e-mail:

udalnata@gmail.com.

Printed materials can be sent to:

Natalia Udaltsova

2336 Welsh Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Next issue will cover two months May and June and will be published in late May.

Deadline for submitting materials for the next **May/June** issue is **May 15**.
