

Lamorinda ARTS ALLIANCE

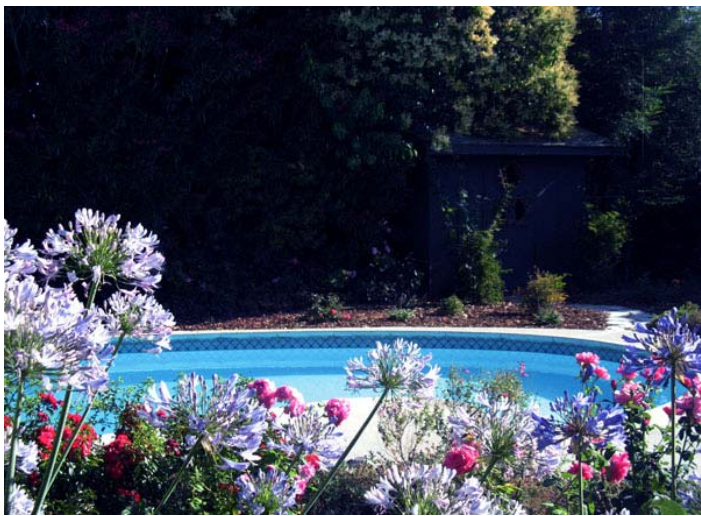
NEWSLETTER

August 2011

www.laa4art.org

*"Laughter of Lilacs
Rainbows of roses
Songs of the robins
Lily of the valley borders
Sunshine to warm the heart
Oh what joy this season does impart!"*

- Anne Morrow Lindberg, *Poem for Summer*



"Beautiful Pool" by Natalia Udaltsova, digital photo.

Message from LAA President

Several members from LAA participated in Orinda Arts Council's "Arts In Bloom...In the Park" which was held on July 19th. It was an evening to celebrate the visual and performing arts and a good chance for LAA to partner with the Orinda Arts Council (see pages 4&5).

For those of you who are involved in the crafts as well as the arts, The American Craft Council Show will be held at Fort Mason Center from August 12 – 14 this year. It is one of the premier craft shows that ACC holds each year and it is a wonderful opportunity to see the country's top contemporary craft artists. More information can be found online at: www.craftcouncil.org. Click on "Shows and Markets".

Donna Arganbright
LAA President

Plein-Air Group

We continue meet on Tuesdays at 10.a.m. to depict our local landscapes... Please join us.

Call Beryl at **925-253-9488**, or e-mail ishbel8@comcast.net or **Gina Koenig** e-mail ginainca@yahoo.com.

General Meeting of LAA members

At our next meeting there will be a demonstration by **William Harsh** on the ' Art of Etching'. William is an artist living and working in the Contra Costa area. He has worked extensively with mono type printmaking. He graduated with MFA from Boston University and exhibits his work nationally. Mark your calendar and join us on **August 16 at 6 p.m.** for our General Meeting at Lafayette Studio.

Beryl Glen-Reiland,
LAA Enrichment and Development

MORAGA PEAR FESTIVAL

September 24

This annual event has been set for **Saturday, September 24**. LAA participating artists (\$25 membership level) are eligible to pay a special non-profit fee of \$40. You will also be covered by our liability insurance policy; we will submit the required certificate of insurance for you. The 2011 registration form is included with this newsletter.



*Painting fragment by
Natalia Udaltsova*

PLEASE NOTE: If you have non member friends who have participated in the past, they will now need to register at a \$65 level AND provide a certificate of insurance. However, if they join the LAA and pay our \$25 membership fee, they can qualify for the non-profit rate. The cost is the same, but they might have trouble meeting the certificate of insurance requirement. Any questions, please call **Bill Klapproth (925-376-0708)**.

A Short History of Open Studios

By George Ehrenhaft

The first artist to open a studio to the public probably painted on the walls of a cave. Arguably some of us have come a long way since then, and on October 22nd and 23rd LAA will pay silent homage to that anonymous pioneer of long ago whose brilliant idea inspired countless artists to invite art lovers into their own studios to watch them at work.

For centuries painters have depicted the company they kept in their studios. The Dutchman, Jan Miense Molnaer, for one, painted "An Artist's Studio" in the 1600s. He portrayed himself surrounded by four guests, one of them a dwarf who seemed not to care a fig about art. The little fellow is shown playing with a poodle. Nearby, a female, wags an admonishing finger at the artist as if to say, "Dammit, Jan, get to work."

In 1865, Whistler painted a portrait of himself, palette and brushes in hand. To his right appear two women in flowing robes. One studies herself in a handheld mirror. The other reclines seductively on a divan. Are they his muses? His models? His mistresses? Could one of them be Whistler's immortal mother?

Renoir saw his studio as a gathering place for cronies. His studio painting shows one mustachioed and four bearded men hunkered in a corner having a tête-à-tête. Another French artist, Fantin-Latour, portrays himself hobnobbing with the likes of Renoir, Manet, Monet, and Emile Zola. Did these 19th-century superstars really convene in F-L's loft to have their portraits painted? Or is the artist thinking wishfully?

For overall grandiosity, Corbet's open studio painting wins in a walk. The artist stands stage center next to a huge canvas. Peering over his shoulder is a naked model, more or less covering her vital parts with a sheet. Also present are a dog, a cat, a small boy, and a throng of 23 men and women chatting,

laughing, reading and sleeping. Not one shows the slightest interest in the artist or his voluptuous model. So why have they come? Maybe to be seen and to have their portraits painted?

Fast-forward to 2011 -- to October 22-23, to be precise. Will your open studio attract a dwarf? Playful pets? Unclad women? Nobody knows. But you can depend on one truth: By opening your studio doors, you'll be carrying on an eons-old artistic tradition. **To be in on the action, be sure to register by August 15th.**



THREE NEW FEATURES OF OPEN STUDIOS 2011

- New Open Studios Venue: The Lafayette Gallery (Space still available)
- New Site for the Central Exhibit: The Lafayette Studio
- New Location for Open Studios Reception: The Lafayette Studio

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Registration fee is **\$60**. Completed registration forms and your check for the fees/extra materials should be **RECEIVED** by **August 15**. Registrations received after that date **MUST** include an additional **\$25 late fee**.



The absolute deadline for the **RECEIPT** of registrations and fees is **September 1**.

Registration form as PDF file may be found on LAA website: http://laa4art.org/OS_2011_Registration.pdf

And for those who want to fill it out on the computer, there is a Word document: http://laa4art.org/OS_2011_Registration.doc

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

Sat & Sun, September 17 & 18

The Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, held each year on the third weekend in September, is the largest event in Lamorinda and one of the five biggest outdoor festivals in Contra Costa County. More information is here:

<http://lafayettechamber.org/events/art-wine-festival/>



The poster for the 16th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival is a colorful collage. At the top, it says "Saturday, Sept. 17th 10-7 PM" and "Sunday, Sept. 18th 10-6 PM" in "Downtown Lafayette". The main title "16th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival" is written in large, stylized letters. Below the title, there are icons for a wine glass, a musical note, and a leaf. The text "September 17 & 18" is at the bottom. A list of sponsors is on the right, including Comcast, SolarCity, Diablo, and others. At the bottom, it says "4 LIVE STAGES -- 2 FULL DAYS" and lists various performing acts like "ML CRISIS", "THE SUN KINGS", and "FRONT STREET".

Lafayette Gallery news

"What Makes Us Smile" runs through October 8 at the Lafayette Gallery. This exhibit is guaranteed to lift your spirits! The artists of the Lafayette Gallery have thought about personal pleasures, and universal joys, all for the purpose of creating art work to brighten your day. Come and see these thoughts of happiness expressed in paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry, all designed to bring a smile to your face.

Ten members of Lafayette Gallery will be participating in the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. They are: Paula Boas, Debby Koonce, Linda Yoshizawa, David VanderJagt, Warren Rice, Geoffrey Meredith, Dalia Alekna, Margaret Lucas-Hill, Judith Feins, and Jill Landau.

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>

"Navigating with Color"

New Show Opens at Moraga Art Gallery on August 16.

Moraga Art Gallery member Nancy Robinson and guest artist Ellen Heathcote will be featured in its new show. The public is invited to view their art along with gallery members' work at the show's opening reception, Saturday, August 20, 3 - 5 p.m.



"Three Redheads of Belgrade" by Nancy Robinson, watercolor (opaque)

Nancy Robinson has been painting since she was young, but took off many years to work as a registered nurse and raise her large family. Since retirement, Nancy has returned to her art full-time, painting in acrylic, oil and watercolors. "I have always been fascinated with the human form, in all its shapes and sizes," said Nancy. "However, even more beautiful is the spirit, so I paint from my heart and center."



"Gathering" by Nancy Robinson, watercolor (opaque)

Nancy is a self-proclaimed "workshop junkie." She attends classes and studio sessions several times a

week and travels to special workshops several times a year. Her work can be found in private collections throughout the country.



"Schooners At Marina" by Ellen Heathcote, textile

Ellen Heathcote has worked in fabric crafting for many years, making wearable art, home decor, clothing and quilts. "My passion for fabrics and textures has inspired my creativity in so many ways," said Ellen. "I have found that a simple project can lead to complex, intricate pieces with the use of special techniques, embellishments and stitcheries to add dimension and movement."



"Artists Rendition" by Ellen Heathcote, textile, mixed media

Moraga Art Gallery

570 Center St, Moraga 94556

Rheem Valley Shopping Center next to CVS Drugs
Tuesday – Sunday, 12 – 5 pm.

925 376-5407 www.moragaartgallery.com

Moraga Art Gallery and MAG members participated in the "Arts in Bloom...In the Park" event organized by the Orinda Arts Council.

Photographs by Wenda Pyman



Ginny Ruble, paintings



Lucy Beck, photography

Orinda: July 19, "Arts in Bloom...In the Park"

Photographs by Wenda Pyman



Wenda Pyman, photography



Beryl Glen-Reiland, paintings



Donna Arganbright, ceramics



Dorothy Gager, sculpture, paintings

This event was successful for many LAA members. Among participants there were also Bill Klapproth, Barbara Falconer, George Ehrenhaft, Dorothy Davis, and Judith Feins.

A few words from Wenda:

"I realize there were members of LAA, too, I feel bad now that I didn't shoot everyone, but the sun was unrelenting and talk about bad light and contrast! Beryl, Dorothy, Donna (MAG) had their own tables, and the Moraga Art Gallery had a table, more for publicity and outreach."

The “Best of the Best” – Our Volunteer of the Year Award goes to Natalia Udaltsova!



(Photo is taken in San Francisco, Twin Peaks Overlook)

Again, and again, Natalia has volunteered to undertake tasks, intimidating to most of our members, but she in her sweet, capable, and self-assured manner has shown us all the true spirit of volunteerism--to give

and not to count the time or personal sacrifice. She has the poise and the ability to make it all look easy.

Natalia joined LAA in January of 2007 in order to participate in Open Studios. For Open Studios 2007 and 2008 she served as assistant coordinator. In 2009 and 2010 she volunteered to take on the difficult and time consuming role of coordinator. All four years she ensured that Open Studios was a success for all of our participants.

In 2009 she joined the LAA Board as Newsletter Editor. She brought it online and created a very professional, newsy and timely piece for the LAA members. The addition of colored photographs and other announcements in color and the clear format has made it an interesting and fun newsletter to read as well as imparting important information. It is a newsletter that we all look forward to reading.

About the same time she took over as the Newsletter editor, she took on the role of Web Master. Due to her efforts we are all linked and our information is available for anyone interested in our work.

Thanks for being an example to so many Natalia. As members of LAA we all appreciate the professionalism and commitment that you bring to your volunteer roles. The award of Volunteer of the Year is richly deserved. We are in your debt.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATALIA ON HER SELECTION AS 2010 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!!

An October Opportunity

Open Letter from George Ehrenhaft

As you know, October in Lamorinda means Open Studios, LAA's premier event of the year—a time for all of us artists to put our work on display and invite the public in to take a look. This letter is meant to encourage you to participate in the 2011 version of Open Studios.

I know well why some artists choose to skip Open Studios: too much work, iffy weather, meager attendance, and so forth. But there's another side to the story—the rewards and benefits side.

By participating, we do our bit to enhance the cultural life of the Lamorinda community. But more than that, Open Studios offers each of us a priceless opportunity to show our friends, our fans and a whole bunch of other art lovers the fruits of our creative work.

I've participated in Open Studios during three of the last four years. I'm glad I did. Yes, I managed to sell a few paintings, but more to the point were the pleasures of taking part in a art-inspired community event in the congenial company of such talented fellow-artists as Barbara Davis, Don Eagling, Charity Huss, Wenda Pyman, Bob Wahrhaftig, and our late friend, Diane Hurst.

At eleven o'clock each day of Open Studios, our group stood ready to be deluged by Lamorindan art lovers. You won't be shocked to hear that the flood never arrived. But customers did dribble in, and the dribble sometimes turned into a flow. Some of our visitors had been invited, others came after seeing Open Studio signs along St. Mary's Road. Most were art fans who browsed a while, wanted to talk about art, appreciated what they saw, and sometimes made a purchase. For me, the chance to talk with others about paintings, photos, pottery, jewelry—indeed, artwork of all kinds—is irresistible. After all, making art is essentially a solitary endeavor. But an artist's work is fully realized only when it is shown in public and becomes a form of communication, in effect, a social medium.

That's just one of the beauties of Open Studios. It's also a time to listen to what others think, and from their thoughts, view one's own work with fresh eyes. Of course it's depressing when nothing sells. I've been there. But hope springs eternal: the next person who comes along will be a buyer. Not long ago, such a thing happened to me. A woman saw my paintings on display and texted some friends to come and see them, too. In the end, they walked off with seven paintings. Granted, such bonanzas don't occur often, but they can happen—maybe even to you.

My wish is that these words will inspire you to participate in this year's Open Studios. Just think: October may be your month to set the local art scene on fire.

Sign up via the LAA website (<http://laa4art.org/>). Click on “Events” for a registration form and send it to Bill Klapproth, 1897, Joseph Drive, Moraga, CA.94556 .

And if you have questions or concerns, please write to me at wrhotline@aol.com.

Many thanks,
George Ehrenhaft, Coordinator, Open Studios 2011

Moraga Pear Festival

Welcome to the 13th annual Moraga Pear Festival. This is an excellent opportunity to exhibit and sell your artwork. The event celebrates Moraga's pear heritage with activities including inflatable jumpies, pie and food booths, service league and business booths, fine arts and crafts, music, and more. It will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 10am to 4pm. Once again, it promises to be bigger and better than ever! The \$40 registration fee entitles the artist to a 10x10 space; tables and chairs may be requested at no additional fee. Space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so please register early. We expect to be able to accommodate up to 20 artists; last year 10 artists participated and had a great time with decent sales. LAA 2011 discount vouchers may be used for this event.

ENTRY RULES: This event is open to ALL LAA participating artists. (\$25 membership level)

ENTRY FEE: \$40. (to be forwarded to the Town of Moraga).

Although tables/chairs are provided; you must bring your own display set-up. You should plan on setting up Saturday morning any time after 6am; set up should be completed by 9am. If you prefer, you can set up on Friday evening; local Boy Scouts will be on hand to guard your booth overnight.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Applications will be accepted up to two weeks prior to the event (Sept. 10), but space assignment

Moraga Commons, September 24, 2011

will start in late August. Applications received by the August 28th will have a better chance of getting a "prime" location. If the number of applicants exceeds the planned space, you will be placed on a waiting list and we will negotiate additional space for artists if demand warrants it. Cancellations after September 10 will forfeit the entry fee. Bill Klapproth is handling the registration process; call him on 376-0708 if you have any questions.

SET UP: As in past years, Debby Koonce will coordinate the assignment and set up process and will be available throughout the day of the event. Spaces will be marked the evening before and Debbie will be on site between 5:00 and 6:30pm to consult with participants. You are encouraged to set up on Friday evening.

DISPLAY PANELS are available for rent (\$5 per panel for LAA members, \$10 for non members). Go to the LAA website (www.lafayettegallery.net or www.laa4art.org) to rent panels.

Artists are responsible to pick up and return their own rented panels. If you have any questions about set-up, call Debby at 376-7995.

SALES: Artists are responsible for their own sales; there is no commission on sales.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY: LAA members are covered by our liability insurance; artists are responsible for loss or damage to their artwork. Artists shall not hold the LAMORINDA ARTS ALLIANCE or any managing or sponsoring organization for MORAGA PEAR FESTIVAL responsible for any loss or damage, or any other claims filed as a result of this event

----- (Detach and mail completed form with check)-----

MORAGA PEAR FESTIVAL-2011

ARTIST REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Mailing Address _____ City/Zip _____

MEDIA _____

____ Entry fee enclosed (\$40) (10x10 space) (LAA 2011 discount vouchers may be used!)

____ YES, I would like _____ tables and _____ chairs (indicate number desired).

____ Please check here if you need electrical power.

Please make your check payable to Lamorinda Arts Alliance and mail to:

Bill Klapproth
1897 Joseph Dr., Moraga Ca. 94556

This form should be RETURNED by August 27th for best space assignment
FINAL deadline is September 10, 2011



"My Little Fairy" by Natalia Udaltsova, digital photograph

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 of LAA Newsletter will be published in mid-September and will cover two months September and October. **Deadline** for submitting materials for the next September/October issue is **September 5**.
