



VIVAnews



Dixie Canyon Student Art Exhibit

A popular annual event at VIVA involves honoring the art of children. Now in its 10th year of doing so, this February VIVA showcased the work of students from Dixie Canyon Elementary School – our local LAUSD neighborhood school. Kathy Barbro, Visual Arts Professional Expert and parent of a former Dixie student, curated the exhibition featuring wall works of children in kindergarten through grade 5.



Parents at Dixie help to fund the Visual Arts Program which is directed by Ms. Barbro. The school's glee club performed at the family reception which was held on February 7th. It was a great event for Dixie and for VIVA, and a good time was had by all.

Bev Grossman



SCORE VIII

VIVA started off the year 2010 with the very successful Southern California Open Regional Exhibition (SCORE). This was the eighth year that we have sponsored this well-respected exhibit.

The juror was, Diane Calder, an artist, member of the International Association of Art Critics, a writer for ArtScene and a teacher. Ms. Calder pulled together a beautiful exhibit from over two hundred entries. Entrants came from all over Los Angeles County, with some people participating from as far away as Santa Barbara, San Diego, Ventura and Orange Counties.

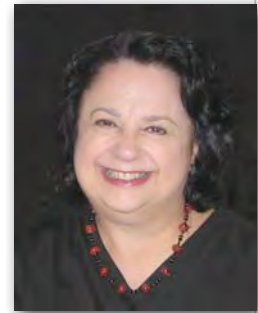
The gallery was full to capacity at the reception. It was truly a gala that included many new faces that we hope will continue to visit VIVA for years to come. (See Page 4 for list of winners.)

Loraine Veeck

Pictured are Lani Emanuel, 1st Place Winner & Loraine Veeck, SCORE Chair

President's Message

A long time ago I purchased a painting at an estate sale. An elderly man living in my neighborhood was selling his home and his belongings and this painting, I was told, was painted by his son. I fell in love with the painting...it had all the right elements...a woman in costume, lots of color and bold strokes. I could tell that the man was a little sad about letting it go, but I reassured him that it was going to a place where beautiful art was appreciated. So, I purchased it for \$25 and spent four times that much to have it framed. For years I looked at the signature of the painting..."R. Wiegmann 1961" and wondered who this artist was and if he was still living. This was way before a computer and the internet had entered my world. Last year, my curiosity finally got the best of me and I did an intensive search on the internet for R. Wiegmann. I found a Richard Wiegmann who had taught art at a college in Nebraska and I was hoping that he was "my" artist. I sent him an e-mail telling him who I was and attached an image of the painting to the e-mail. With a very few words, I laid out my story, and asked him if he was the artist of my beloved painting. Days later I had my answer and R. Wiegmann was transformed from merely a pale stroked signature to a living, breathing creator of art. It was worth the search.



Dear Carolyn,



Yes, I did the painting. I am sitting here now in a kind of time warp with strange nostalgic feelings...family, neighborhood, youth, college, etc.

My father sold the house, I guess, in the late 80's after my mother died. I had lived there for about 10 years - essentially my teens. I drove by the house last in 2001.

I did that painting in a class. Robert Frame was the instructor. I was attending a summer session at Otis Art Institute (or the L.A. Art Institute...the name changed at least once) on Wilshire Blvd. I took the bus down there each day.

A few years ago I retired after 41 years on the art faculty of Concordia University (College) in Seward, Nebraska. I have been a practicing, exhibiting artist - primarily painting, printmaking, and drawing along with a number of stained glass designs commissioned primarily for churches. A month ago my wife and I moved to Portland, Oregon, and now I'm in the process of uncrating some of the work I brought along and will set up a studio here.

It was kind of you to contact me. It is a bolt out of the blue! There is a sense of satisfaction (maybe especially at this point in my life) in knowing that something has had meaning for someone - even a student painting. Besides, most old work doesn't usually survive for so long, I suspect. I am having someone work on a website for me. I don't know how soon it might exist, though. You might find something if you google Richard Wiegmann and art, although you're more likely to learn about some bigshot German hotelier!

So, your search is over. I'm glad you still enjoy the painting.

Richard Wiegmann.

Working With The Community

VIVA has always strived to be an asset to the local community. That's why it's so important for our gallery visitors to pay extra attention to where they are parking (especially during receptions.) If you block a driveway, we are going to hear about it. If you park in the lot across from us, you will be asked to move your car. We appreciate your attendance at the receptions or simply coming to experience the exhibits. We also know that it's not always easy to find parking. Let's all try to be conscientious and aware about maintaining a great relationship with VIVA's neighbors.

Carolyn Uhri

VIVA Donates Space For Haiti Fundraiser Open Mic

On Feb 19th, a group of writers called Story Salon, led by Beverly Mickin staged a charity event for the benefit of earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

Beverly asked participants to bring shoes or cash and the night was alive with spirit and amazing talent. The stories were everything from humor to satire to poignant memoirs.

Once again VIVA puts her best foot forward for the art community and the world beyond. Thank you Story Salon and all who attended this event for a more than worthy cause.

Dori Marler

A Special Opportunity

Every once in awhile, VIVA is lucky enough to receive a gift of extraordinary art. Ruth Myers presented VIVA with an exquisite Tony Couch watercolor, which we have recently had matted and framed. This large watercolor came from the estate of Winifred Wills. Our board decided that we should raffle off this work of art and since it is such a unique painting, we will be giving you the opportunity to purchase tickets until the end of our All Group Exhibit (July 17, 2010). Tickets will cost \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5.



As many of you already know, Tony Couch is a well known artist and instructor whose watercolor style is so very recognizable. He travels the United States giving workshops and has demonstrated his techniques at many Valley Watercolor Society meetings.

Many thanks go to the VWS board for allowing us to debut this painting at their reception on Sunday, February 28th.

Carolyn Uhri

Introducing The New 2010 VIVA Salon Artists

By the time you read this, the 2010 Salon artists will all be in their place and everyone is invited to come and experience their art throughout the year.

We are happy to present one outstanding sculptor and 13 remarkable painters. The work is wide ranging from fused glass, watercolor, collage, oil, acrylic and more. Do not miss our upcoming exhibits by these very talented artists; Selina Cheng, Dulcie Adams, Lore Eckelberry, Debra Hintz, Kuniko Ruch, September McGee, Christina Lynn Johnson, Beverly Grossman, Dorothy Shepherd, Susie Gesundheit, Jason Brain, Walter Hurlburt, Marjorie Sarnat and Stuart Kusher.

Dori Marler

2010 Southern California Open Regional Exhibition Winners

1st Place: Lani Emanuel – *Boxers*

2nd Place: Grace Swanson – *Amaryllis Tang*

3rd Place: Teri Hannigan – *My Creative Mojo: A Trio of Autobiographic Sculptures on Creativity*

Carter Sexton Artist Materials: Corey Stein – *Fox Tanning in the Sun, Chevak*

Jack Richeson & Co., Inc.: Angela Chang – *At Morel's*

Continental Art Supplies: Jessica McCoy – *Bathroom*

Honorable Mentions:

Bijan Fan – *Feather her Nest*

Camilo Cruz – *Marine*

Susan Moss – *Earthslide 359*



Poets, Jason Brain and Eric Lawson make a statement.

The Poet's Gallery Becomes a Favorite

The word is getting out at the local poetry circuit...VIVA is the place to be. Due to the popularity of the poetry readings, VIVA has decided to host them every other month. Our attendance continues to grow as VIVA attracts some of the best and brightest guest speakers. Lynne Thompson captured our imaginations with her island inspired poems in January. The energy was high and the poetry diverse that evening. In March, we will welcome guest poet, James Maverick. Our co-producers are Richard Herd, Dori Marler and Carolyn Uhri who always create a welcoming atmosphere. Look for our next event sometime in May.

Carolyn Uhri



Meet Board Member, Teri Dryden.

Teri Dryden's unorthodox path to becoming an artist began with immersion in an ancient art form in which she was the medium. A theatre major at Towson University in Maryland, she excelled in physical expression and comedy. At the urging of an acting instructor, she auditioned and won a coveted spot as one of the few female clowns in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. For two unforgettable years, in every state in the U.S., she performed in one of the most colorful and visually-stimulating environments imaginable. Not many artists can include "experienced elephant rider" on their resume.

She moved to Los Angeles, became an award-winning stage actress, and landed several television roles. She also was the concierge of the Century Plaza Hotel, where she once found herself on an elevator with the famous actor Danny Kaye, who towered over her petite frame. He looked down, smiled cordially and said, "Didn't you used to be taller?"

The birth of her first child cured her of the acting bug, but the need for a creative outlet was never quenched. A few years after the birth of her second son, she took up quilting

and produced a number of stunning and distinctive fabric art pieces. Show business intersected with her life again in an unexpected way when she met and married her second and final husband, a standup comedian whose work occasionally takes him to exotic locales (he's a very visual comedian, and it's probably no coincidence that among Teri's heroes are the Three Stooges and Charlie Chaplin). As a result, Teri has broadened her experience with travels to such disparate destinations as Alaska, Hong Kong, Ireland, Hawaii, Italy, and the Caribbean. She twice accompanied her younger son Spencer to Tokyo where he starred in commercials for Hitachi and those rich memories inform her world view and art.

When her oldest son Griffin, then 12, was cast as the middle child in the Fox sitcom "Grounded for Life," showbiz again touched her life in a major way. Since her son was a minor, for four years Teri spent untold hours on the set as his chaperone and used the time to develop and hone her skills as a fabric artist. It was during this time that an astute art teacher talked her into taking a class, and there she discovered a latent talent and passion for painting and drawing that burst into a roaring flame practically overnight. During a remarkably short and prolific period, she won several awards and sold dozens of paintings and drawings to rapt fans who recognized her unique sense of composition and color in dramatic florals and still-lives. Teri continues to revel in daily discoveries about art and her own sensibilities and fearlessly explores the infinite possibilities of various media and genres. She feels she has found her voice after discovering the fascinating world of collage.

She is an avid reader and her eclectic music tastes run from Radiohead to Van Morrison to anything Motown. She loves to cook and her friends and family think she makes the best darn chili in town.

Teri is very grateful for the support and encouragement of VIVA, which has been instrumental in allowing her to find her footing in the art world. She'll be doing a three-person mixed-media show at the prestigious Gallery Western in Los Angeles for two weeks in March, with the reception scheduled March 20th.

Mack Dryden

Upcoming Exhibits at VIVA:**Pasadena Society of Artists**

March 17 - April 3

Reception: Sunday, March 21 2 - 4 pm

Valley Artists Guild

April 7 - 24

Reception: Sunday, April 12 2 - 4 pm

Collage Artists of America

April 28 - May 15

Reception: Sunday, May 2 2 - 4 pm

Newsletter Contributors:

Donna Geist Buch, Layout Editor

Ruth Banarer & Beverly Grossman, Associate Editors

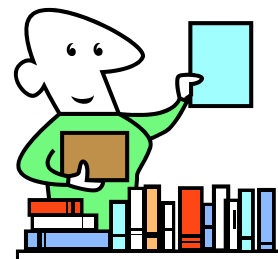
Articles: Mack Dryden, Susan Kuss, Dori Marler,

Carolyn Uhri, Loraine Veeck

Mailing: Adele King & Committee

Art Books Wanted

If you're getting ready for your spring cleaning, please think of VIVA Art Center. We are very grateful for book donations.

**Be a VIVA Volunteer**

VIVA is looking for sitters and volunteers who can offer skills i.e. selling, hanging a show and computer literacy. As do many non-profit organizations, VIVA relies on the assistance of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, helping to facilitate our daily operations, interacting with the community and increasing the awareness and visibility of the art center.



13261 Moorpark Street
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
www.vivaartcenter.org