



VIVAnews

The Four Faces of VIVA

Every year VIVA sponsors a juried show in which all four founding organizations participate. VIVA was very pleased to see so many artists come and support us, bringing with them wonderfully diverse and beautifully executed works of art. The reception was well-attended and there were many remarks about the high quality of the art.

Many thanks go to the juror, Carol Bishop, who had the daunting job of choosing which pieces would be included in the show. And thank you to all the people on the Board of Directors and in the participating art organizations who helped bring this exhibit to fruition.

-Lorraine Veeck
2010 All Group Exhibit Chair



Pictured from left to right are: Scott Kiché, 1st place winner, Bev Grossman, VIVA 3rd VP and Lorraine Veeck, All Group Exhibit Chair

The Four Faces of VIVA Awards:

1st Place: Scott Kiché for *There Will Be Rest*
2nd Place: Antonio Pelayo for *La Villa*
3rd Place: Susanne Belcher for *Reminiscence*

Continental Art Supplies Merchandise Award: Mila Benedicto for *Cab #7*
Carter Sexton Merchandise Award: Deborah Swan-McDonald for *The Professor*

Honorable Mention: Barbara Barrett-Byrne for *Pedigree*
Honorable Mention: Mark Wood for *Mooven On*

Salon News 2010

Are you looking for a new experience in art or a variety of visual adventure? For those of you who delight in exploring the extraordinary, let me to invite you to visit the Salon at VIVA Art Center.

We are proud to present a collection of art works by more than a dozen fine artists from Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

Most of the work is being shown for the first time and all are unique originals.

If you have not been to VIVA recently, we urge you to treat yourself to a soul stirring event and while you are there, please spend a little time in the Salon. You won't regret it.

-Dori Marler

President's Message

In the grand scheme of things, VIVA has been a constant source of camaraderie for many of us. Our love of art, whether creating it or viewing it, brings us together in a way that satisfies the soul. Our receptions at VIVA give everyone...the art lover as well as the artist, a chance to connect and share our stories. This connection of the viewer and the artist can also lead to making a sale.

When you finally find a piece of art that speaks to you and your desire is to purchase it, being able to talk to the artist first makes all the difference in the world. The artist's perspective of his art can add a depth to your own way of looking at it and enhance its own personal message. Long after you have found the perfect place to hang this art, the memory of having spoken to the artist emanates from the piece every time you look at it.

One painting that I purchased last year has a message on the back of it that completes the painting for me. Every time I dust it off, I take it from the wall and read the handwritten tale connected to the back of the canvas. It's as if the artist has left these words just for me as a reminder of that day this art entered my life.

I urge you all to take advantage of attending our receptions...to talk with these lovers of art and shed your own creative light and stories on your art for them. You never know what your words will lead to.

-Carolyn Uhri



A Special Thanks

VIVA wishes to extend their thanks to all the organizations, workshop groups, artists and volunteers who have worked so hard helping keep VIVA Art Center alive. It is your enthusiasm and generosity that keeps us motivated to be a community resource. Thank you one and all.

-VIVA Board of Directors

Ventura Boulevard Fixture

The venerable 55 year old Valley fixture, Orlando Gallery will present its final exhibition Sept. 7 – 30 at its Tarzana location, 18376 Ventura Blvd. The work of long-time gallery artist, Bonese Collins Turner will be featured with selections from the gallery's extensive collection. The theme of her exhibit is "Looking Back and Forward"

Opening in the mid 1950s, Bob Gino and his partner, the late Phil Orlando, began to show art works of friends and art they liked in their dance studio. Soon the art became more important than the dance classes; their space had become an art gallery. Several exhibitions brought them recognition. First in 1960, they were contacted by the son of famed Mexican muralist and powerful artist, José Clemente Orozco and they agreed to show a collection of Orozco's prints. The exhibit was widely praised and went from Orlando to the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The first art gallery exhibit of photography also took place at Orlando. Many art facilities of the time still thought of photography as outside the realm of fine art. Following the photo exhibition, the L A County Museum of Art contacted Phil and Bob to thank them for supporting photographers as artists. Orlando was the first gallery to introduce performance art work. Around the same time, the mysterious "pink lady of Malibu" appeared near the tunnel on Las Virgenes Road. Years later the creator was revealed to be Lynn Westmore and her son, Stephen Seemayer; both had been artists at Orlando. Orlando was also supportive of women artists early in its history when women often had trouble being admitted to galleries and museums. Bettye Saar, Judy Von Euer, Susan Clover, Joyce Wisdom, Vida Hackman, Laura Lasworth, Susan Santiago, Pam Mower Conner, Gloria Moses and Bonese C. Turner were among those early women. Patrick Hogan, Lou Ott, Bruce Houston, James Strombotne, Gary Lloyd, Fidel and Edie Danieli, Don Lagerberg, Don La Viere Turner, Ken Gilliland, Peter Alexander, George James, Sabato Fiorello and Bob Haas were among many others who were given first or early shows at Orlando. Through the years Bob Gino has appeared on many radio and TV programs, has juried many exhibitions, has served as a consultant for various groups such as the VIVA Art Center and has offered the gallery as a resource for Valley schools and colleges. The city is losing a valuable cultural resource and launching pad for art and artists. Thanks, Orlando. We'll miss you.

-Bonese Collins Turner



Congratulations to the winner of the Tony Couch painting raffle, Patti Koscheski from Santa Clarita. We hope Patti will enjoy this beautiful painting.



Pictured is Winfield Goulden reciting an intriguing story at the Poets' Gallery previously held at VIVA.

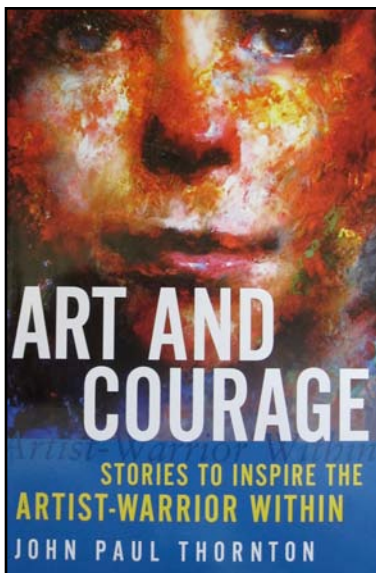
The Poets' Gallery

Once again, the Poets' Gallery enjoyed an enormous success on Sunday evening, July 18th, with guest poet Eric Lawson and a list of 25 open mic readers who entertained an audience that filled the gallery to overflowing. The variety of style, content and color truly complemented our wonderful Four Faces of VIVA exhibit.

Please check our website for the announcement of the next poetry reading at VIVA in September.

We invite you to come and enjoy an evening of free entertainment and spectacular art.

-Richard Herd, Dori Marler and Carolyn Uhri, Co-producers



Welcome John Paul Thornton to VIVA's Board of Directors

VIVA Art Center is proud to announce the latest addition to the Board of Directors, John Paul Thornton.

John Paul is no stranger to the art scene, not only in LA but in some very far reaching locations. In art, he can truly be called, the Keeper of the Flame. John Paul Thornton is one of those people for whom art is life. His spectacular work is admired by all who have the privilege of viewing it and his resume is so extensive that we would need a special edition of the VIVA newsletter just to summarize it

His book, *Art and Courage* is filled with inspirational and touching stories.

A grant from the National Endowment of the Arts through the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs made it possible for him to travel all over the world. John Paul traveled to third world countries to paint and tell the stories of the traditions of the people in those exotic locations.

His travels have not only been a most rewarding experience, but on one occasion in Nepal a near mishap turned into a comedy. While doing a touching demo of an elderly Tibetan woman in a refugee camp he felt a tug on the canvas and it was then that he noticed that a goat was eating his painting.

Children have always played a large role in John Paul's art. He gained national recognition through his project of paintings of missing children. Using mostly photographs of the children on milk cartons, John Paul was able to present a gift of the finished oil paintings to the grieving parents and in one case at least, his work was responsible for the recovery of one child.

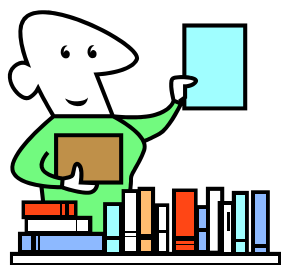
"Art has always been in my life," John Paul tells us. His early influence came from his Dad who was a freelance artist who made a living doing hand lettering and acrylic painting. But it was a Renoir exhibit at LACMA nearly 20 years ago that brought it home to him. "The clarity of the eyes, the softness of the brush strokes; it changed my whole life. I knew I wanted to be a painter."

At home, John Paul is blessed to have at his side his loving wife Martina who is a practicing acupuncturist and daughter Lorelei, a frequent subject of his work.

We in the local art community are also blessed to have this dedicated and talented young man on our board at VIVA.

Thank you, John Paul, for all that you do.

-Dori Marler



Art Books Wanted

Need space? Cleaning house? VIVA would love to have your unwanted art books. We are always very grateful for your generous donations. Special thanks to all those who have donated in the past.

Upcoming Exhibits at VIVA:**Artists Co-op 7**

August 11 - August 28, 2010
Reception: August 15, 2 - 5 pm

Spotlight on VIVA

September 1 - 18, 2010
Reception: September 12, 2 - 4 pm

Collage Artists of America

September 22 - October 9, 2010
Reception: September 26, 2 - 4 pm

Valley Artists Guild

October 13 - 30, 2010
Reception: Sunday, October 17, 2 - 4 pm

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On behalf of the VIVA Board, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer!

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.



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