

Seeking Guidance

Open – Close, Open – Close, Schedule – Re-schedule, Plan - Replan

Does anyone out there have a crystal ball? I've consulted my Christmas Snow Globe but all it does is sing, "I Saw Mama Kissing Santa Claus." It used to sing "Baby It's Cold Outside" but the political correctness police had it re-programmed. Anyway, if not a crystal ball, how about some Tarot cards, or a tea leaf reader? I think our grant moneys would pay for the input. (not)

We all know that the pandemic will end, or at least diminish in impact, but when? Every month our intrepid board meets and reconfigures our plans for the coming months, playing hide-and-seek with COVID-19. So far, the virus is winning. In spite of that, the mood remains upbeat and I'm inspired by the positive energy of the members, such that, whenever we are able to resume gallery operations, we're ready. The latest exhibition schedule is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

In the meantime, our hands have not been idle. Linda Knoll, our new gallery manager, has been working to attach a store feature to our web site. This will allow us to advertise and sell our art on-line, even if the gallery is closed. Please contact her for information regarding how you can participate in this project. Although started because of the pandemic, it's a feature that will be continued after we re-open, as well.

Another project that was stimulated by the restrictions of the pandemic is our *Expose Yourself to Art* series. It was decided to put the interview show



online as a way of staying in touch with both our patrons and the local arts community. Initially, our expectations were fairly low regarding the benefit of such an endeavor. However, after doing a few shows, we discovered that we liked it, our guests liked it, and our audience started to grow. We will definitely continue the project even after re-opening the gallery and are currently working on the schedule for the coming year.

If you haven't tuned in, it is streamed live on Facebook and You Tube and also saved for viewing at other times. The format is to have our invited guests talk about their life and their art. Our platform also allows for shar-

ing examples of the artist's work. The criteria for guest selection is primarily focused on local artists or artists with a Modesto/Stanslaus connection. We will also use the program to promote current exhibitions in the gallery. If there are artists you think would be interesting to have on the show, send suggestions to me or Linda Knoll. Our current schedule for the first part of next year is printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Again, crystal ball gazers, send us your best predictions!

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.

Happy New Year!

David Schroeder, Board President

Grants made to arts organizations supporting people of color

Although COVID-19 has put a damper on many arts activities, our local chapter, Stanislaus Arts has not been inactive. To support the arts through this time of crisis, The National Endowment for the Arts made funds available to keep artists and arts organizations somewhat functional through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) act. In California, it was decided to distribute these funds to artists and organizations of color who have been forced to close or curtail activities because of the pandemic. The filtering down of these funds resulted in Stanislaus Arts receiving \$12,600 to be re-granted to local artists. Local groups were notified and encouraged to apply for these funds. We received 16 applications which were reviewed by a six-member panel who decided to award grants of from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to nine of the applicants. Congratulations to the artists! The awardees are:

Lightbox Theater - \$1,000 to produce a bilingual play for children to be presented online this spring.

Youth Empowerment Project - \$2,200 for development of art programs for youth

Los Falcones Folklorico - \$1,000 to support dance activities

Ballet Folklorico Anahuac - \$1,000 to support dance activities

Latinx Comic Arts Festival - \$2,200 to assist with creation of an online festival this spring.

Sankofa Theater - \$2,200 for programs supporting youth education

Los Luceros Folklorico - \$1,000 to support dance activities



Ballet Folklorico

Creative Refuge/Haylee White - \$1,000 to create photography workshops for artists of color

Kaila Kindley - \$1,000 to support operations at Modesto Conservatory of Art and Music.

Congratulations!



MoCon Art Studio



Sankofa Theater

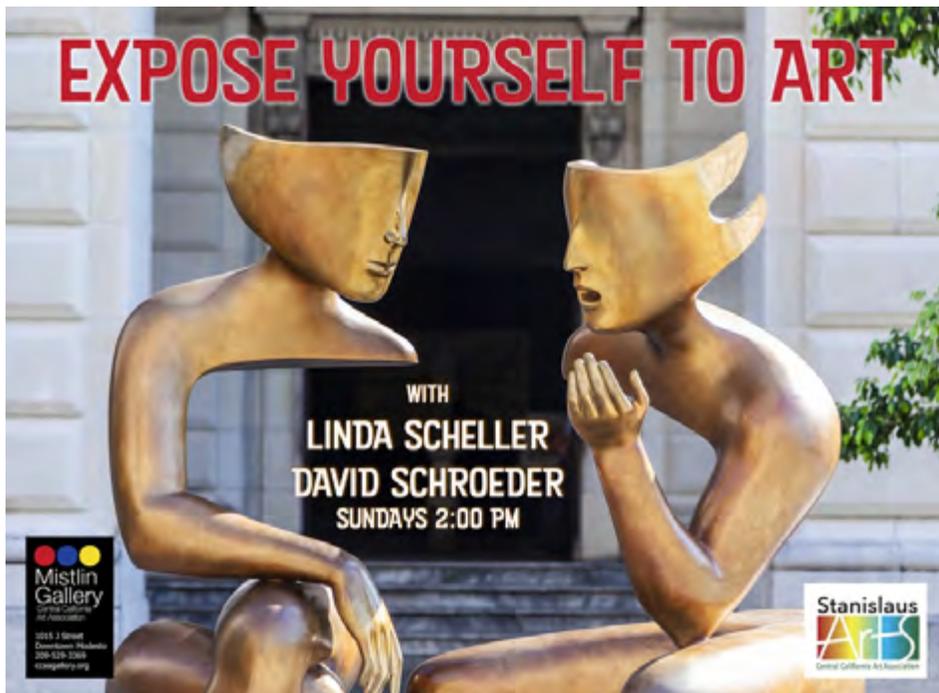
Ongoing plans to bring you chats with artists

Expose Yourself to Art: When we first conceived of a revitalized Stanislaus Arts Council we had visions of a series of “meet-and-greets” and brain storming sessions to acquaint everybody with everybody and find common causes around which to organize. Of course, with masks and social distancing in effect these things couldn’t happen, and a few Zoom meetings, while helpful, weren’t getting the job done. What arose in the vacuum left by the absence of these activities has been a program we began a couple of years ago called *Expose Yourself to Art*. The idea was to invite artists of different genres to come to the gallery

and share their individual approach to creativity. With group activities restricted, the program was shut down until we decided to put it on-line. Beginning in September, we met with artists on-line, in the comfort of their own home/studio and talked with them about their life and their art. These interviews have been streamed live for viewing on Facebook and YouTube and are archived for future viewing on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWH8ikrZAl0>

This approach has allowed us to experience a close-up view of the creative process which permeates all approaches to art. Thus far we have

talked with: Nicole Slater (painter), Jack Sousa (actor, director), Rene Daveluy (ballet dancer, choreographer), Aaron Vickery (mural artist), Sandra Veneman (clay artist, gallery owner), Ken White (writer), David Chapman (musician), Sam Pierstorff (poet), Tony Pooler (painter, gallery curator), Vance Whitaker (stage make-up artist), Linda Knoll (artist, book author), and the Stevens Family (opera performers and directors). We can see the benefit of this program and will be continuing even when COVID restrictions are lifted. The schedule for the first couple of months of 2021 appears below. If you want to be on the show, or have suggestions of who we should interview, contact us at the gallery via email at ccaagallery@gmail.com.



Follow our new 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/stanislausartscouncil>

@StanislausArts

CCA has been designated as the Arts Council of Stanislaus County

by the



Upcoming Schedule of Online Talks:

January 10	Gillian Wegener & Stella Berattis	MoST Poetry Center
January 17	Jeremy Stolle (aka <i>The Phantom</i>)	Modesto to Broadway
January 24	Don Hall	Artist and “Potters for Peace” Activist
January 31	Paul Tischer	History of Modesto Performing Arts Assn.
February 7	Gary Sweeney	Installation Artist
February 14	Lisa McDermott	Carnegie Art Center
February 21	Keith Boggs	Painter and Musician
February 28	Greg Savage	Sankofa Theater

Click here to join the show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWH8ikrZAl0>

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

2021 Exhibitions Planned at Mistlin Gallery

Mistlin Gallery (Central California Art Association) has recently published its 2021 schedule of art exhibitions. The exhibitions range from CCAA member shows, to student shows, to themed shows on a variety of topics — 9 shows in all — which are described inside. Information, including show entry forms, can be found on the website at <https://ccaagallery.org/exhibitions/current-upcoming-shows/>.

We hope the gallery will be open to the public with modified hours towards the end of January, depending on the COVID restrictions. **Meet the Artist** member show will remain in place through January 30.

Several 2020 shows that were cancelled due to COVID shut downs will be turning up in 2021, including exhibits of plein-air painting, quilts and fiber arts, and CCAA's annual Autumn Art Festival - a juried show featuring the best of regional artists. A schedule of classes and workshops will gradually be added in the new year, when restrictions are lifted for meeting in groups.

Meanwhile, artist talks and recorded classes can be accessed on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf3zr0HnUuQUKjiboWcHJuQ/videos>

The mission of CCAA's gallery and gift shop is to give established and emerging artists from throughout the region an opportunity to show and sell their work.

The exhibitions are a mix of member shows, invitationals and open calls.

Foto Modesto: Themes, Projects and Stories

Open Online February 2-27



This year's annual Foto Modesto invitational photography exhibition, organized by David Schroeder, will feature the works of a dozen regional photographers who have submitted works on themes ranging from rodeos to churches. Featured artist, Bill Harris will tell the story of Circus Vargas with images that depict the traveling circus from days gone by, when they would appear in the area for a few days each year. Photographers will include Lorraine Nilson, Dan Souza, Anna Barber, and Larry Lew among others.

Young@Art Student Exhibition

Open March 2 - 27

After 45 years, CCAA's annual student show is still going strong. Once called Young Masters, the show is all about showcasing the creativity and artistic efforts of our local youth. Last spring, after hanging over 200 student works, the show was cut short by statewide stay-at-home orders.

However, with precautions in place, this March's show will move forward, exhibiting an array of works in all mediums from preschool through high school aged students. Prizes are awarded in 8 categories, divided into age groups and mediums. Works may be entered by teachers, families or individuals with a limit of 2 entries per student for an entry fee of \$2.00 each.



A new feature this year will be a collaborative project for kids initiated by *StArt Magazine* — an arts magazine for families now being published by Linda Knoll Graphics. Visitors will be able to draw and paint pieces to add to a mural throughout the exhibit.

The Yosemite Tapestries and Preserving Our Wilderness

Open April 1 to 30



Nine large panels by Miriam McNitt (1917-1998) will be featured in the main gallery during this open exhibition. The "tapestries" are yarn stitcheries that were originally commissioned by Yosemite National Park for their visitor center theater. 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 American tribes, to John Muir's visits, Camp Curry's creation, through the 1970s when the works were created. McNitt was a noted fiber artist from the Fresno area, who lived

in Yosemite for a time, and retired to Modesto with her family in the 1980s. She created a similar tapestry for the McHenry Museum which showed the valley's agricultural landscape.

In addition to the tapestries, the show will have an **open call for art from regional artists** on the wide-ranging theme of wildlife, wilderness, environmentalism and the conservation of our National Parks. Works may be entered in any medium. Show host, Linda Knoll, hopes for an exhibit that delves deeply into our relationship with the earth.

This show will be CCAA's first show to use an online entry format using Smarter Entry. Links will be posted on the website soon!

Continued next page



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. Contact show host Tony Pooler for information on entry into this show.

Visions Reimagined: From Little to Big

Open June 1 - 25

Brought to life by noted “plein air” artists Chella, Rick Ingraham and Janet Hardie, this show will be an **open call to artists for pairs of works** — one plein air “study”, along with a bigger companion studio piece based on the study. Plein air paintings are primarily landscapes, but also include sea and cityscapes, and tree or plant studies that have been produced in the open air, reminiscent of the late 19th century French impressionists. The paired works will show the contrast between quickly produced outdoor studies, and more carefully rendered pieces produced in the studio. There will be cash prizes awarded, sponsored by Valley Suncatchers plein air painting group.

Country Crossroads Quilters: Fiber Arts

Open July 1 - 30

This semi-annual show features quilts and other fiber art created by the Country Crossroads quilting guild. The quilts range from mini to full size, in an array of artistic forms. Other items include weaving, knitting, felting and other fiber related mediums.

5th Annual Autumn Art Festival*

Open August 10 to October 8

The Autumn Art Festival will invite regional artists to bring their best for this juried show. Prizes are awarded in several categories based on mediums including painting, drawing, photography, graphics and mixed media. A fundraising gala is planned during the show which brings the bulk of donations for the gallery’s programming.

Memorial Medical Center’s Healing Arts

Open October 12 - November 13

Participants in Memorial Medical Center’s complementary art therapy classes, held at Mistlin Gallery, annually put on this show featuring their art, photography and poetry. The artists are cancer patients, survivors and caregivers who attend the classes as a way to work through the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Artists in the group range in experience from beginner to professional which gives the show a broad range of appeal.

Home for the Holidays*

Open November 16 - December 23

CCAA’s member artists are given this opportunity to show all kinds of works in every medium. Many are smaller in scale and perfect for the giving season. The gallery encourages folks to shop locally to support the areas small galleries which can offer unique pieces for every taste.

Featured Artist Window

Throughout the year, CCAA member artists will be featured in the east window space of the gallery. Ceramicist, Randy Crimmell, will start the year off in January, followed by Carolyn Huff, Valentino Alexander, and Vicki Reid. If you’d like to be a featured artist, contact Marianne Ward.

Note:

All these show openings are dependent on the continued improvement of pandemic conditions. Please sign up for our **email newsletters at ccaagallery.org**, and follow Instagram and Facebook for the most up to date information.

***These are member-only shows. Please make sure your membership is up-to-date to participate!**



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf3zr0Hn-UuQUKjiboWcHJuQ>



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



@ccaagallery
@class.ccaa

Central California Art Association is a 501c3 non-profit. We use donations to run Mistlin Gallery, including art exhibitions, programs, classes for children and adults, and art education programs in area schools. **Donations can be mailed to 1015 J Street, Modesto 95354 or made online at <http://ccaagallery.org> through PayPal or by credit card. We appreciate your generosity!**