



NEWSLETTER

May 2010

VAG proudly announces a VAG visit to the
* *Getty Villa in Malibu* *



Our May meeting will be held at the Getty Villa in Malibu at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway in Pacific Palisades. Please note that access to the Getty Villa entrance is only from the northbound right-hand lane of Pacific Coast Highway. **IMPORTANT: See President's Message for further instructions regarding tickets and parking.**



The Getty Villa features many Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities arranged by themes including Gods and Goddesses, Dionysos and the Theater, and Stories of the Trojan War.



The Getty Villa Roman-inspired exterior is sure to produce spectacular photos. Classical architecture, gardens, pools and fountains are found throughout the grounds. Photos may not be permitted inside the Villa. Ask a docent first.



Next General Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2010

Time: Ticket pickup between 10:00 and 10:15 at Encino Center Parking Lot - see President's Message for further details.

Admission: Free

President's Message

Our group visit to the gorgeous Getty Villa on Sunday, May 23rd is finally here! Here is our precise four step plan:

Step One: Call to reserve your Free Tickets **NOW!**

Please call me (John Paul) NOW at 818 378-8381 to reserve the number of tickets you want for yourself, friends or family. Tickets are limited, so call right now! every person must have an advance VIP ticket! Call me! I am waiting by the phone! Cost of tickets: FREE

Step Two: Pick up your tickets on Sunday May 23rd between 10 and 10:15 am.

On Sunday, May 23rd between 10 and 10:15 AM, swing by the parking lot at the Encino Community Center and I will personally hand out your reserved tickets. Yes, I will be standing there at the entrance to the parking lot and will serve you your tickets. (You must have the tickets on your possession in order to enter the Getty Villa parking lot. No tickets may be purchased at the Getty Villa!) The Encino Community Center parking lot entrance is located on Balboa, a few hundred feet north of Ventura Blvd. It is where we meet for our group meetings! Cost of parking: \$15 per car. There is no limit to passengers in the car, but remember, everybody must already be holding their pre-reserved ticket! (See step 1 above) **I suggest we car-pool!**

Step Three: We will drive to the Getty Villa, located at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway Pacific Palisades, California 90272

Please note that access to the Getty Villa entrance is only from the northbound right-hand lane of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

Directions: Take the Ventura Freeway east to the 405 San Diego freeway South. Exit at Sunset Blvd. Take Sunset west all the way to Pacific Coast Highway. Make a right on PCH. The Getty entrance will be on your right.

Step Four: We will meet as a group at the entrance and then view the exhibits.

This will be a memorable day of fun and great art!

Call me to reserve your tickets now!

John Paul Thornton
President, Valley Artists Guild

Valley Artists Guild Member News

Marie Odenheimer Thomas hosted almost 50 visitors, who toured her flower garden on Saturday, May 1st. Her garden is famed for both its size and its beauty. It is truly exquisite with many hundreds of flowers in full bloom. If any of our members would like to see the garden, they are welcome to come and bring their camera, but please call her first at (818) 986-7956.

“Four Faces of VIVA” 2010 VIVA All Group Exhibition

Don't forget the Valley Institute of Visual Art's All Group Exhibition, which is open to all exhibiting members of **Valley Artists Guild**. This show will be juried by Carol Bishop whose artworks have been published and exhibited in the U.S. and abroad. Carol is an instructor in Art and Art History at Los Angeles Valley College, and a Senior Lecturer in Design at Woodbury University. The exhibit will open Wednesday, June 30th, and run through Saturday July 24th - with a take-in of entries on Monday, June 28th, from 9:30 am to 12 noon. A prospectus is available online at www.vivaartcenter.org.

Support VIVA

Doing some Spring Cleaning? VIVA is in need of any art books or magazines of value and artistic interest and content that you are willing to part with or are looking to get rid of. So clean out your book shelves and at your earliest convenience, please drop off your books at VIVA and share the wealth of art knowledge. Those that cannot be sold can be shared with the upstairs workshops.

Author: Barbara Jones

Dorothy Shepherd reports having received several awards for her work during the past several weeks. In the Verdugo Hills Art Association's Spring Juried Show, her "Trophy Trout" (a nature painting in watercolor) snagged Best of Show, and her photo entitled "Flying Fish" received a 1st place in the Photography category. Both works are on exhibit at the La Canada/Flintridge County Library until June 5. Then, during the month of May, at the San Gabriel Fine Arts Association Spring Juried Show, she again received a 1st place in Landscape Watercolor, with her "Fisherman's Retreat," now on display in the Glass Room with other prize winners throughout the month of May. Also, VAG thanks Dorothy for stepping up to help mail out hardcopies of the newsletter to our members who don't have e-mail. Thank you Dorothy.

Awards too numerous to mention! **Ione Citrin** is lighting up the Southern California art scene with her work, and with her many recent awards. Of course, we must mention that Ione won a Merchandise Award at the Valley Artist Guild's Gold Medal Exhibition for her stunning sculpture entitled "The Kiss." Ione has an online Newsletter which chronicles her amazing art activities. You can access this Newsletter by clicking on her website, www.ARTBYIONE.com. Congratulations Ione.

Jude Wiesenfeld is now an A.J.P. (Accredited Jewelry Professional) after completing courses from the G.I.A. (Gemological Institute of America). She is being relocated to the Ben Bridge Jewelry store in the Northridge Mall, starting this May 17th. Visit Jude and have your jewelry cleaned and checked at the same time! For her shift hours, please call the store at 818-701-6001 so that she doesn't miss your visit!

Norton Wright has 16 of his paintings hanging in the Wine Bistro Restaurant & Bar thru June 1, at 11915 Ventura Blvd. (two blocks east of Laurel Canyon) in Studio City. They are open Tues. - Friday, 11:30 am - 11pm and Sat. 4:30 - 11pm. For reservations call (818) 766-6233. Additionally, Norton reminds us that a two-hour TV movie titled "Safe Harbor" and starring Treat Williams, Nancy Travis, and Orson Bean, and produced by Norton last year, continues to be broadcast this year on the Hallmark Channel. Watch for it!

Valley Artists Guild Member News-Page 2

Norton Wright, continued

In another medium, Norton is on the internet, as interviewed by Don Heckman, on The International Review of Music (IROM) about Mr. Wright's JazzWorks series of abstract paintings that visualize the sounds of an array of jazz music giants, e.g., Dave Brubeck, Dizzy Gillespie, Pat Metheny, Tierney Sutton, et al... Browser link is [NORTON WRIGHT IROM](#).

Correction to the April Newsletter

Last month, in the Mini-Show section, the name of the third place winner was omitted. The uncredited artist was Corinne Schnur. Sorry Corinne!

Lore Eckleberry is exhibiting at the 2010 VIVA Salon #3. Her painting from that show sold the day of the opening. She was juried in to exhibit at the Collage Artist of America at VIVA Gallery, and to the VAG show "5 Elements" at Orlando Gallery, winning an Honorable mention. Two weeks ago she was commissioned to do a portrait of the actor Jason Lee, for his birthday. He loved it, thanked Lore for it, and he is recommending her to his friend

Attention: Valley Artists Guild is in need of a volunteer who will fill the position of: FACEBOOK Web Page Facilitator

VAG is in the process of getting up and running on our own VAG Facebook Web Page. We are building our Facebook Web Page from the ground up. We are currently looking for one of our members who will act as the Facilitator for this new endeavor. Information will need to be regularly monitored for content. Requires someone who enjoys online work and interactive discussion and is comfortable with using the computer. Any questions for information that the Facilitator doesn't know can be run by one of the VAG Board members for the correct response.

For those members that are comfortable with the computer (and there are many who are) the Facebook Web Page will be another opportunity to disseminate and gather information. It will work in tandem with the VAG Newsletter in informing members of upcoming events, suggestions, resources and discussions.

Facebook is an interactive online tool for the exchange of information and is immediate and in the moment. It can be used as a resource from one person to the entire VAG group or as a discussion forum (i.e. maybe a wonderful upcoming art program that will be airing on PBS). It allows members to immediately disperse information on the VAG Facebook Web Page that anyone may tap into, join the conversation and comment on it, or use as a tool from which to garner information.

If you are interested, please immediately step up and volunteer for this position! If you have any questions regarding this position, please get in touch with Barbara Jones at BJones2796@aol.com, or give me a call at 818-346-2704.

Author: Barbara Jones

Remembering Albert Sormanti

Once you saw Albert Sormanti you could never forget him. He was a gentleman who was elegant, poised, dignified, and courteous to all. He was usually there at every VAG exhibit take-in - generally submitting just one painting, perhaps as large as a 30 x 24, which was always a composition of shapes similar to the pillars at Stonehenge, in warm colors, pleasingly arranged in various configurations. Mr. Sormanti's paintings were the "sleepers" of many an exhibit and were frequently selected for awards. Over the years I spoke with him several times, but never came to know him well. I will miss seeing him, however, and I will miss seeing his paintings in our exhibits. Mr. Sormanti died recently, at the age of 88.

Author: Donna Rogers

Mission San Fernando, our April Paint-out



VAG Members Painting on a beautiful day at San Fernando Mission

In Memoriam

Remembrances of Carol Merrick

Recently, Carol Merrick's family, and her many friends informed us that she had died, from a fall, while in was in France on a painting vacation. Lisa August has arranged for three trees to be planted in Israel, in Carol's name, as a remembrance from VAG. Here are two of the responses to Carol's death from VAG members, and a personal eulogy from her long-time friend, Christine Weber.



Carol Merrick at Timberley's, 2009

I've known Carol Merrick and painted with her for almost 30 years. Her untimely death while on a painting holiday in France is a big loss to Southern California's arts community. She managed, through her boundless energy, to be a member and devoted volunteer to so many art organizations. I first became acquainted with her in Ventura County, as we were both members of the Plein Air Painters, Buenaventura Art Association, and the Gold Coast Watercolor Society. I've enjoyed her company almost every Tuesday as we have painted the Ventura County scene together. She would come early and stay late regardless of how far she had moved away from our core group through the many years. I loved that she cared so much about all of us that she travelled constantly to participate in our our weekly sessions.

Carol was an asset to the whole community. She completed her BA and teaching credential as an adult with three young children at home, and went out to teach in Los Angeles, both in the public schools and in adult education. When she moved to Ventura County, she taught air brushing and basic art techniques in adult education at the Ventura Senior Center. I took her airbrush class, but I didn't expect her to care for me as she did. She went out of her way to take my old broken airbrush to be refurbished and returned it to me in tip-top shape. This was typical of her ability to give to everyone.

Many of you have only known Carol for a few years in the Valley Artist's Guild, and I understand that she volunteered to be your historian. I would have expected no less from an octogenarian with so much energy and giving ability.

By: Christine Weber

Carol was a go getter. Not long after joining VAG, Carol started coming to our board meetings. I was impressed with her work as an artist and asked her to participate along with 6 other artists in a show sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, at the Canoga Park Youth Center. She seemed to blossom and come out of her shell. She continued coming to board meetings and doing volunteer work. She was a very sweet person and her energy was amazing. We will sadly miss her. She has been an asset to the organization and a friend.

By: Donna Geist Buch, VAG Exhibit Chair

In Memoriam - Page 2

Remembrances of Carol Merrick

Carol Merrick, (on the right) Demonstrating airbrush techniques. At the Valley Artists Guild January 24, 2010 meeting at Encino Community Center



Although I only knew Carol Merrick a short time, we struck an immediate connection during a small VAG exhibition we both took part in at the Canoga Park Youth Center last summer. Under the direction of Donna Geist Buch, Curator, we hung that show together, and spoke of our lives and our shared love of the art world. Carol had recently moved back to the S.F. Valley from the Ojai area, leaving behind many of her longtime friends.

Following that show, we shared other VAG meetings and exhibition take-ins and just before Carol left for France, Donna Geist Buch, her daughter Erica, Carol and I shared a lovely and warm lunch together at Stanley's Restaurant. Carol expressed how excited she was to be returning to visit France with her son, and to paint there. We enjoyed a lovely day that day, hanging pictures together, laughing and discussing art. Unknowingly and unfortunately that was to be my last encounter with her.

At Carol's funeral, I came to know her even better through the eyes of her three children, her family, and her many friends from up north. I learned of her devoted and loving relationship with her husband, Dr. Bob who passed a few years ago. At the reception in Carol's home, following the service, Lisa August, Donna Geist Buch and I listened to stories of Carol's life, of her getting lost in France on a prior trip, and learned of her limitless energy, generous heart and spirit that she shared with all of those she met.

We will miss Carol, as a friend and valued Board member of VAG.

Barbara E. Jones
VAG Publicity Chairperson

Orlando "Five Elements of Nature" Exhibition

May, 2010 award winners



Pictured from left to right are Linda Stelling, Lina Cohan and Rita Hamilton (merchandise award winners) Debra Hintz (2nd Place) Donna Geist Buch (3rd Place) Loré Eckelberry (Merchandise award).



John Paul Thornton
Presenting First Place Award to Jenelle Song

Drawing & Painting



"Reading Treasure Island" 22" x 28", Oil on Linen © 2009 by Ellen C. Brown

I have been fortunate to be a part of the Oil Painters of America 19th Annual National Juried Exhibition of Traditional Oils this year. There were 2800 entries but only about 200 were chosen. I am most honored. The show is at the Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale and runs through May 29th.

It was a pleasure attending the show, surrounded by so many wonderful visionary artists. If you would like you may see the show online at <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/>.

I am teaching drawing from my studio and new students are most welcome! If you would love to learn about drawing & painting the figure/portrait, contact me for more information.

art@ellencbrown.com

<http://www.ellencbrown.com>

818 713-8015



In Marie Odenheimer Thomas' Garden

A big “thank you” goes out to all of the people who sent me member news and articles. All the items were interesting and informative. You are all amazing.

If you notice some changes to the format, those changes are not necessarily intended, but may be the product of newly using Apple’s “Pages” program, which sometimes does exactly the opposite of what my PC brain wants. The content, however, is as I intended, or as received by me from our members.

There will be one more issue before the summer break. Please have your member news and articles to me by June 1st for the June edition. That edition will again be issued in the middle of the month since this is not a good time to catch up, but after that, the September publication date will be moved forward to the **beginning** of each month, to allow more time for you to make your plans. The deadline date will revert to the long-standing one, the **20th** of the **PREVIOUS month**, i.e. August 20th for the September issue. So that I have enough time to get your issue to you in a timely way, that date will be FIRM.

Cordially,
Donna Rogers donnarog@gmail.com

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Photo by Donna Rogers, in Marie Odenheimer Thomas's flower garden



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