



# NEWSLETTER

October 2010

## A Visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art



Our October group meeting will be at the beautifully renovated Los Angeles County Museum of Art on Sunday, October 24th. LACMA has finally completed its decade-long renovations, creating a splendid unified vision. The Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion, a key feature of LACMA's ongoing transformation, dramatically expands the museum's exhibition space and also further unifies the western half of the museum's twenty-acre campus. Their new European wing gives viewers an art-viewing space worthy of a great Museum. We will all meet at 1pm, beside a "can't-miss" landmark: the massive installation of streetlights at the Museum's new main entrance on Wilshire Blvd.

Once we purchase our tickets, VAG members are encouraged to follow President John Paul Thornton right up to the new European Wing, where he will present an exciting and eye-opening talk on how seventeenth century artists used dramatic light and rich shadows to create emotion and mood. From there, we may move around in groups, exploring the new additions to the museum and visiting the vast array of LACMA's collections.

This is a time to bring friends and family, socialize with fellow artists and soak up the inspiration!

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2010, Time: 1pm

Location: The Los Angeles county Museum of Art, (LACMA), 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036, (323) 857-6000

Place: We will all meet as a group beside the massive streetlight installation at the museum's main entrance on Wilshire.

Parking: \$10 Park in the Pritzker Parking Garage, on Sixth Street just east of Fairfax Avenue. Or park in the lot at Spaulding and Wilshire.

Admission: \$15.00 for adults - \$10.00 for students and seniors  
Children: free - If you are a member of LACMA your admission is free.

**For information call John Paul directly at 818 378-8381**

### Next General Meeting

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2010

Time: 1:00pm

Place: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Admission: \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Free for children and LACMA members

## *President's Message*

Here is the big news: The Valley Institute of Visual Art (Our own VIVA Gallery) will be closing its doors at its current location on January 1st, 2011. Rest assured, however, that this does not mean that VIVA is shutting down as an Arts organization! The VIVA Board is actively working with realtors to find a new location to continue its programming and exhibitions.

To answer some questions, I have laid out some important points to ensure that we all understand the reasons for VIVA's move, and VIVA's vision for the future.

Why is VIVA moving? Two main reasons: One involves parking! VIVA hosts events which attract hundreds of visitors at a time, but the gallery has only seven allotted parking spaces. One or two local neighbors began complaining that our receptions were overwhelming their streets. Inspectors came and began imposing restrictions. Applications for city zoning variances would be unavoidable and ridiculously costly. After much negotiating and reviewing of legal scenarios, the VIVA Board of Directors opted to move to a more accommodating location. This points to the other main reason for a move: As a successful, growing entity, VIVA simply needs more room for its outstanding programs and exhibitions!

Besides hosting the Valley Artist Guild, VIVA hosts a full exhibition schedule serving nearly one thousand artists. It also holds ongoing art workshops, educational classes, public events and poetry readings. VIVA needs to accommodate its rapidly expanding role here in the greater San Fernando Valley.

Finding a new location for the VIVA Gallery is exciting and daunting. The market may be loaded with an abundance of vacant buildings, but only a special site will ever bear the name "VIVA." Considerations include: ample parking for receptions, take-ins and events, expanded studio space for doubling the workshop capacity, ensuring a lively/safe location, community connectedness, close proximity to freeways and, of course, square footage and price.

VIVA is not merely a building - it is a vision come to life. VIVA is an idea that will flourish into the future. VIVA has become an outpost of culture and possibility, bringing together countless artists of many levels of experience and discipline for over a decade. The new location will manifest just as it is meant to. If you feel you may know of a potential space, feel free to contact me directly with your suggestions. As I now serve on the VIVA Board, I will pass the information on to our realtors.

There is much more to read about in this October newsletter! I hope to see you all at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on Sunday, October 24th, following our delightful Fall Exhibition reception at VIVA gallery on Sunday, October 17th.

John Paul Thornton,

President, Valley Artists Guild.

## A Stroke of Inspiration



### Guest Artist Dan Milnor Gonzales Challenged Us to Create in Exciting, Personal Ways by John Paul Thornton

Anyone expecting a quiet, quaint demonstration would have had a real shock to the system upon meeting our September guest. Dan Milnor Gonzales stunned the audience at the Encino Community Center with his paintings, drawings and sculpture - all based on fantastic themes, surrealistic imagery and wild technique. He presented a window into the question of creativity, impulse and exploration beyond conventional boundaries.

VAG President John Paul Thornton introduced Gonzales by reminding members that "There are many art students rushing to mimic the style of popular painters, when actually the true goal we should have is to learn to create...like ourselves." Dan Gonzales is an artist who has faithfully

shunned the methodology of others, in favor of expressing his own personal emotions, interests and passions. Gonzales himself says, "Sometimes I feel like the mysterious peddler who appears in a little town with a wagon full of curios and wonders, which shake things up for the inhabitants."

Gonzales is not shy about explaining the vast inspirations for his art, which range from childhood memories of domestic restriction, his love of mythology, The Bible's Book of Revelations, past relationships, Anatomy, Biology and a love for alternative surfaces. Wow!

He outlined how he develops inspiring ideas, actively exploring concepts and visions that most people might reject as being too fanciful, unusual or downright bizarre. One example is his use of common objects. He transforms the familiar neon orange traffic cones we all know into surfaces for his artwork, drawing directly onto the cones with a Sharpie marker pen. He creates series of mermaids that exceed the parameters of expectations, and he imagines the Earthly continents illustrated on maps as they might appear if they came to life, taking on the anatomy and carnal acrobatics of living human figures. Gonzales brought us approximately one hundred original artworks, which he encourages audience members to hold and pass around so that they may see them up close. At the break, people were abuzz with their enthusiasm about Dan's presentation.

"Dan is amazing," said VAG member Christi Work. "He's crazy... A true mad genius!" Member James Hames agreed. "This is the kind of demonstrator I have been waiting for! This is Truly compelling work- The kind that really wakes you up!." A few members cringed at his sensational and often provocative images but had to admit that they were quite impressed with his energy and talent.

After sharing stories about the creation of his first sculpture in bronze, (a fantasy bust of artist August Rodin), he invited members to the back of the auditorium, where he spread out dozens of large, colorful pastel drawings, on the ground, for viewing. His final message was punctuated by the overwhelming presentation of his work: "Keep exploring," said Dan. "Ask questions and don't be satisfied with easy solutions!"

Thank you, Master Gonzales!

Our mini show was then judged by Dan, who had thoughtful comments about the winner's work.

Congratulations to all who participated.

First Place: Terry Romero Paul

Second Place: Norm Beal

Third Place: Hariette Kahn

Fourth Place: Marilyn Mason



# Fall Exhibition Best of Show



## BARBIE'S BIRTHDAY

by Teri Starkweather

1st Place: Sharon Weaver's Morning Hits the Rocks

2nd Place: Natalie Smythe's Pipe Dreams (No picture at this time)

3rd Place: Shula Singer Arbel's Somewhere

Merchandise Awards:

Jack Richeson and Co.: Judith Block's Ode to the Dunhuang Caves on the Silk Road China: 400 A.D. 1400 A.D.

Jack Richeson and Co: Norm Beal's Sea Sprite

Canvas Peddler: Scott Kiché's Margarita

Carter Sexton: Nicola Kaftan's Gathering Storm over Parpinteria

Strathmore Paper: Dorothy Shepherd's Immersed in Beauty

Advanced Photo Lab: Linda Sue Marshall's My Boys

Honorable Mentions:

Nancy Taylor's A Path in the Park

Debra Hintz's The Cool Pond

# Member events and reminders

## VAG REMINDERS

### Deadline for submittal of items for the newsletter.

If you wish to share with us news, thoughts, anything that might interest your member friends, please submit it to me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month Send to Scott Kiche, [Lunahope2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Lunahope2003@yahoo.com), Or call 818-462-5708

### Board meeting change

The VAG board meeting day has changed from Thursday to the second Wednesday of the month all are welcome to come and join us.

E-mail Scott Kiche at [Lunahope2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Lunahope2003@yahoo.com) or you can contact John Paul at 818-378-8381.

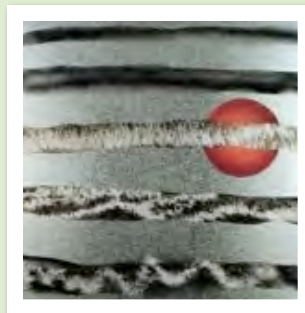
## MEMBER NEWS

Lore Eckelberry announces two international exhibitions of her work, one at LA ARTCORE, and another at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. The Consulate exhibit began in September and is continuing through the month of October. From this exhibit, Lore garnered four commissions, including that of a portrait for the Mexican Consul General. Also, at the Consulate, Lore was interviewed many times while standing in front of her paintings. These interview were then broadcast on several Spanish language television news programs. In addition to these exhibits, Lore has an exhibition at VOCA Gallery, where she won an award and sold several paintings. A very busy lady, Lore will be exhibiting at VIVA Gallery with Collage Artists of America, at the "Spot Light" exhibition with the 2010 Salon Artists, and at the Pasadena Central Library. Finally, Lore has been juried in to Pasadena ArtWalk. Congratulations Lore!

Trice Tolle has arranged for our Valley Artist Guild Demonstration Meetings to be held at the Encino Community Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evening in the following months of 2011: February, March, May, June, and September. Reportedly, the Encino Center is planning to phase out Sunday activities, due to cost considerations. Further information will be available soon.

Lone Citrin has recently created a new series of etched or florentined steel panels on which she has painted abstract impressions. She came upon panels of this steel

## MEMBER NEWS CONT'D



which caused light to flicker over the brushings. Enthused, she ordered a number of galvanized steel panels that are 36" x 36" with a 4" lip all around. She then had a carpenter fashion a wooden frame within the back of each panel, so that a cord could be placed there for hanging. Then her creative spirit took over, and the result is now on exhibit. You can see this innovative work at: Talking Stick, 1411 Lincoln, Venice CA, 90291, call 310.450.6052 for further information.

Donna Geist Buch, Barbara Jones and Marilyn Jordan have artwork up at Abuelitus Restaurant for Day of the Dead, presently till Nov. 15th in Topanga Canyon; Donna Geist Buch and John Paul Thornton will be in the Celebrating our Mexican Heritage Exhibition at Galeria Gitana in the City of San Fernando. The show is October 30th through December 24th. Teri Dryden won 2nd place and Donna Geist Buch received an Honorable Mention in the CAA exhibition called Opposites Attract at VIVA Gallery.

### Eight Associate Members Elevated to Exhibiting Members

At our September board of directors meeting and semi-annual jurying session, eight Associate members were elevated to Exhibiting Member status.

The meeting took place at Ken Ronney's house, where fifteen associate members each brought three works for review by the jurying committee. All the works were carefully examined, evaluated, discussed and voted on. The artists whose works received a majority of "elevate" votes were juried in.

Those members elevated to Exhibiting members are:

Diane Gold  
Aazam Irilian  
Nicola Kaftan  
Royce Menkus  
Aaron Miranda  
Janet Papkin  
Teri Starkweather  
Sharon Weaver

Congratulations to our new Exhibiting Members. Everyone in the Valley Artists Guild hopes you will enter your works in our Fall 2010 show, so we can all appreciate your talent and efforts.

Ken Ronney, Jurying Coordinator

## Paint out at Topanga State Park

### Teachers of Art

Valley Artists Guild does not endorse or recommend any of the below listed art teachers. It is important that you investigate any prospective teacher, to evaluate his or her teaching techniques with respect to your own requirements.

**Lisa August** is a prominent Chatsworth artist who has won over 140 prizes and ribbons in juried art shows and exhibits, including Best of Show, People's Choice awards, Gold Medals and many other special awards. Lisa's custom oil paintings are of considerable scope and variety, including portraits, pets, wildlife, still life, landscapes and seascapes.

**Oil Painting Lessons** \$50 per month  
Tuesdays or Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
Contact Lisa August at August Studios [Augstudios@aol.com](mailto:Augstudios@aol.com)  
20460 Shamrock Place  
Chatsworth, CA 91311 Call 818-882-8517

**Judy Koenig** teaches watercolor painting from her home studio in Simi Valley. Classes are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 11:30 am, and from 1 pm to 4 pm. There are approximately 12 students in each class. Most students stay for the entire day and go out for lunch, as a group, between sessions. Classes are ongoing, much like a workshop. There is no set number of lessons. To start, there are three projects for the student to do. The projects cover color mixing, composition and technique. After those first three classes, the student can paint the subjects of their choice with Judy's help and critique. Materials, papers, brushes, paints and photography are discussed. The cost is \$80 per month. If you need more information telephone or e-mail Judy. Contact information below:

Judy Koenig

805-526-9978 [www.judykoenigfinearts.com](http://www.judykoenigfinearts.com) [jkoenigart@aol.com](mailto:jkoenigart@aol.com)

**Miles Lewis** "I teach middle and high school foundational painting and drawing (including college-portfolio organization). Primarily, I have open, modeled life-drawing and portraiture workshops at \$10 per 2hr. session. A current schedule, directions, as well as student and teacher galleries can be found at [valleyartstudioschool.wordpress.com](http://valleyartstudioschool.wordpress.com). You can contact me any time at 818-390-2215."

**John Paul Thornton** For information regarding John Paul's classes, scheduling, and locations, please call John Paul at 818-378-8381

**Jude Wiesenfeld** Award winning artist, teaches oil and watercolor painting at Renee's Art Studio in Chatsworth on Thursday mornings. Please call Karen Vadman at 818-701-9887 for more information and to sign up for classes. Check out Jude's website (below) to learn more about her work.

Jude Wiesenfeld  
20636 Romar St.  
Chatsworth, CA. 91311-3231 Call 818-903-4083 cell  
[www.judewiesenfeld.com](http://www.judewiesenfeld.com)

## VAG BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	John Paul Thornton.....818-378-8381
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<b>Mailing Chair</b>	open.....
<b>Exhibit Chair</b>	Donna Geist Buch.....818-998-7904
<b>VIVA Rep</b>	Norm Beal.....818-344-9241

### STRENGTHEN YOUR HEAD CONSTRUCTION



Type to enter text

A great class to learn to analyze, measure & map out human head construction. The class utilizes reference photos, portrait casts, and live models. This method eases the transition to drawing with a live model.



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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



# Ilsa Dattinger

VAG member Ilsa Dattinger is an artist whose talent is in full bloom. Her latest composition, titled “The Whisper of Flowers,” was just recently on display at the Artist’s Alley in the Calabasas Tennis and Swim Center.

While Dattinger’s flowers may whisper, admirers of her work refuse to. On September 29th, the Toluca Times recognized her work as “an excursion into the joy of nature, brought about by a passionate artist who deserves many more one-woman shows in the future.”

Dattinger’s paintings are detailed and original- she’s been known to intensify her works with intricately filed glass. After breaking the glass, Dattinger smoothes the shards and positions them around the flowers, creating a vibrant piece full of enough textures and colors to awe any viewer. Congrats, Ilsa! We love your work!



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[www.valleyartistsguild.org](http://www.valleyartistsguild.org)