



The Creative Edge

VALLEY ARTISTS GUILD

Volume I

Issue 3

August 2011

September Guest Artist

Toni Scott's Journey through Art

by Karen Robbins, Editor

Acclaimed Chatsworth artist Toni Scott brings her creativity to VAG with an inspirational multimedia presentation and lecture at the upcoming September general meeting.

Scott's work, known for its emotion, political and social relevance, and spirituality, chronicles her personal journey through her multi-ethnic heritage and family tree. She creates with paint, stone, fiberglass, bronze, wood, photographs, and digital collage. Her powerful installation *Bloodlines* is the inaugural solo exhibit at the California African American Museum's Gallery of Discovery (on display through September). She is largely self-taught, supplemented by study at Otis College of Art and Design and Art Center



College of Design. She has been the recipient of an Annenberg Foundation grant and a grand prize winner in American Photo Magazine's annual competition. She is a graduate of USC, and is represented by DanielakArt.

The prolific artist—whose works have been shown internationally and at noted local galleries, are owned by celebrity collectors, and fill her home and studio—will outline her artistic development, discuss techniques, and relate personal stories and her own insights into the artistic goals of VAG members. Whether focusing on how

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Calendar

Board Meeting . . Wednesday, September 14
7 p.m., home of Ken Ronney

General Meeting . . Tuesday, September 20
Presentation: Toni Scott
7 p.m., \$7 members, \$8 guests; Encino
Community Ctr., 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino

Board Meeting . . . Wednesday, October 12
7 p.m., location TBD

The Getty Center Museum

Visit Sunday, October 16
11 a.m.–2 p.m., West Los Angeles

Encino Terrace Center

Exhibit November 7–February 3
15821 Ventura Blvd., Encino

Painting Workshop with

Rick Rotante Sunday, November 13
Granada Pavilion, Granada Hills

General Meeting . . . Tuesday, November 15
7 p.m., \$7 members, \$8 guests; Encino
Community Ctr., 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino

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President's Message

Transformation

The ability to transform must be experienced and even mastered by those who follow this higher artistic path. You will confront it in your own time and in your own way. It will require the opposite of technique or acquired artistic skill. Instead, it will require faith.

What does the word faith do to you? It need not be connected to your beliefs about religion. Some of us glow when we discuss faith, while some of us bristle. Either way, at some point along the path, you will be required to have faith in yourself and your circumstances. At some point, there will be no clear set of rules or signposts to guide you.

Some of us are taught a very different lesson from childhood. Most of us are raised to follow rules for our own safety. We are taught to obey set guidelines mostly because it is easiest for our caregivers. We grow up believing that the adherence to comfortable formula is simply the proper, time-honored way to approach nearly every aspect of life. Education, marriage, career, finance and social conduct all come with rules given to us by our circumstances of upbringing. Delightfully, world cultures reserve a special throne of celebrity for a handful of people who disobey rules. These few become the shocking trendsetters, the misunderstood poets, ruthless anti-heroes and the spiritual prophets. Some of these people fall into these roles by accident. Some have the role created for them by others. For some it is a conscious decision made along the path. In the realm of business matters, it is said that fortune favors the brave. The same is true in matters of art.

Many of us know that the greatest source of fear comes from change. Our lives are always changing when we are young. We are always learning new things, going new places and meeting new people, especially in school situations. At some point though, we settle into places, situations and relationships which feel comfortable. As creative people, we must trust change. Only through change will we transform into something greater than our current selves. When we are ready to change we may begin to change the world. Depending on your life experience, it may be strange to now embrace the idea that you would ever leave a place of comfort.

Depending on your individual perspective, this moment of



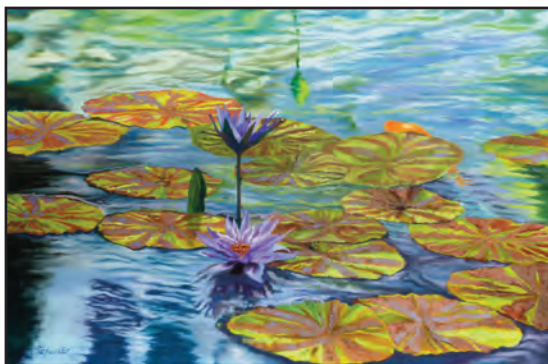
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Members Are... On Display

Ione Citrin's painting *The Storm* won first place at the Elements: Art of the Earth, Wind, Fire and Sea regional juried show, sponsored by the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley. Her painting *Africa* won second place in the Contemporary Fine Art International online Art Challenge for June 2011.

Nine of **Jo Ann Koch's** mixed-media artworks are now on display in the artists' gallery section of the Citra-Solv website. The cleaning product's use as a transfer medium has led to the company expanding its website to include an artists' gallery. See www.citra-solv.com/newcitraartist/JoAnnK.html.

Teri Starkweather will show her watercolors and oil paintings, including *Summer Lily Pond*, at James Gray Gallery from August 13 through September 4. Teri's work will appear in the Bergamot Station facility's gallery 2.



A reception will be held on opening day from 6 to 9 p.m. Located at 2525 Michigan Avenue, Building D4, Santa Monica. Details at www.jamesgraygallery.com.

Fritz Suter's oil painting *Los Angeles—City of Angels* has been selected for Long Beach Arts' Hometown exhibit. The show runs from August 20 through September 23 at the LBA gallery. Artists' reception and awards will be held on August 21. Located at 5372 Long Beach Boulevard; see www.long-beach-arts.org.



Erella Teitler, along with other members, exhibited in the Women Painters West Summer Exhibition in July, held at the Burbank Creative Arts Center.

Trice Tolle had two paintings accepted into the Touch of Gold show at The Women's City Club of Pasadena. Curated by Margaret Danielak of Danielak Art, the show runs August 1–October 31 with a reception on August 11, 160 North Oakland Avenue, Pasadena; see www.womenscityclub.com.

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Appreciating the Mentor in our Midst

By Judith Bloch

Valley Artists Guild president John-Paul Thornton has taught several exceptional classes through the Encore program at Pierce College.

With a wide grasp of art history, John-Paul makes each class come alive with his energetic and knowledgeable presentations. His storytelling expertise includes details of artists' lives that make art relevant to our current experiences.

Over the last two semesters, John-Paul has taught at least five art history courses, including Art and Courage, Italian Renaissance Art and Culture, and Love as Inspiration in Art. This fall, he will add Modern Art to that list. John-Paul's art history classes always include a field trip to museums such as The Getty Center or Norton Simon Museum, where the overflow crowd is divided into smaller groups so that we are able to hear and assimilate his interesting perspective on mythology; hidden meanings expressed by artists; and information on techniques, color use, composition, and painting methods.

John-Paul also teaches watercolor, oil, oil/acrylic, and impressionist painting for those who want to hone their art skills or learn new techniques. VAG is lucky to have such a gem in its midst.

My thanks to John-Paul for being not just a professor, but also a mentor.

Cutting Edge Reception Meets Downtown L.A. ArtWalk

The Cutting Edge exhibit opened July 8 at the Terrell Moore gallery in downtown Los Angeles. It was one of the organization's first exhibits to be juried by photographic submissions.

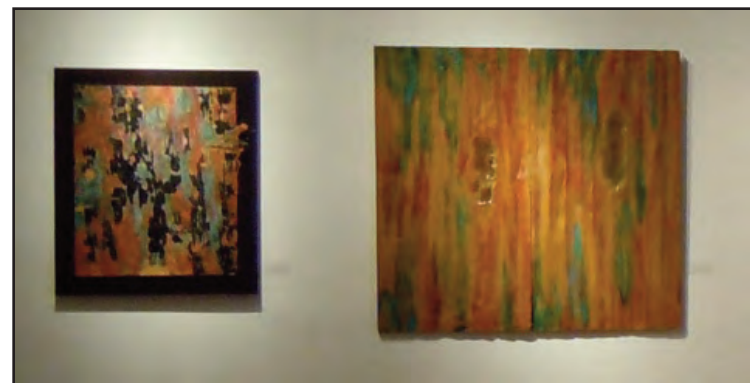
Take-in had gone smoothly with the help of several VAG members. Moore, who also served as juror, arranged and hung the exhibit beautifully. The artists' reception took place on Thursday, July 14, in the evening amidst the hustle and bustle of the monthly L.A. ArtWalk.

Moore thanked all

VAG congratulates the winners. First place: *Live Free or Die*, oil on canvas, by Richard Herd; second place: *Tel Aviv*, mixed media, by Shula Singer Arbel; third place: *Open Pondscape*, acrylic on canvas, by Barbara

Tabachnick; and honorable mention: *Accord*, acrylic on canvas, by Cat Van Der Heiden.

Visitors to the gallery made many positive comments about the venue and the artwork. Among the first to be held in such a lovely downtown location, this VAG exhibit has been a stellar success.



the artists who submitted work to the exhibit. "I...want to encourage you all to do your art, whether or not your work was selected for the exhibition," he said.

After great consideration and thought as juror, Moore noted that "I personally feel that art should not be juried or judged. There is no first, second, or third place. It is [all] a form of self expression."



Deadline Coming for Encino Terrace Exhibit

Mark your calendar—submissions must be received by August 30, 2011. You can submit up to five pieces. Guidelines are in the prospectus and can be downloaded from the VAG website. Encino Terrace, 15721 Ventura Blvd., is a lovely corporate building with lots of daily foot traffic within the building's beautiful lobby gallery. Artwork is featured in glass display cases. Exhibition dates are November 7, 2011 through February 3, 2012. VAG is planning a holiday sale and an opening reception in December.



Painting Workshop with Rick Rotante Coming in November

His inspiring painting made for a dynamic and information-filled demonstration. VAG is thrilled to offer a hands-on painting workshop with Rick Rotante. "Making a Painting from Start to Finish" will be held Sunday, November 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (includes time for a lunch break). Workshop will be held at Granada Pavillion, 11128 Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills, 91344. Spaces are limited; sign-up information will be released soon.



Clockwise from top: Viewing a gallery wall; Norm Beal tends bar. Juror and gallery owner Terrell Moore with VAG Exhibit Chair Donna Geist Buch. A selection of entries on a gallery wall. A visitor contemplates the artwork. Award winners Shula Singer Arbel, Richard Herd, Barbara Tabachnick. Gallery interior from the street (back: sculptor Stuart Kusher, Barbara E. Jones, Ben Goldman; front: Ken Ronney, Teri Starkweather, and her husband viewing Ken's sculpture).

Getty Center Museum Visit Set for October

Join us for a group visit to the world-class Getty Center on Sunday, October 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meet at the top tram station at 11 o'clock sharp. 1200 Getty Center Drive in West Los Angeles (access from north Sepulveda Boulevard only).

Upcoming VAG Exhibition

Prospectuses available from the VAG website unless otherwise noted. All dates in calendar 2011 unless otherwise noted.

Encino Terrace Center Exhibition

ENCINO TERRACE CENTER [website](#)

15821 Ventura Boulevard,

Encino 91436 [map](#)

Prospectus [PDF](#)

Submission Method Photograph

Entry Deadline August 30

Acceptance Notification September 30

Artwork Take-in November 5,
11 a.m.–12 noon

Exhibit Opens November 7;

Gallery Hours TBD

Artists' Reception TBD

Exhibit Closes February 3, 2012

Artwork Pick-up February 4, 2012,
9:30 a.m.–11 a.m.

*Painting is easy
when you don't
know how, but
very difficult
when you do.*

—Edgar Degas

Professional Development

What It Takes to Organize a Small Group Exhibit, Part 2

by Ken Ronney, Exhibit Co-Coordinator

In part one in the June newsletter, I outlined that the goal of professional development for members is to take over all of the responsibilities of creating a small group exhibit. The article included details of the proposal process through being selected as the group to exhibit at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center.

After being selected, co-coordinator Dorothy Shepherd and I met with gallery director Stuart Vaughn and discussed details regarding take in, hanging, publicity, and the opening reception. We set the dates for hanging and our reception, then contacted the artists in our group with dates and times. The schedule was set and accepted by all.

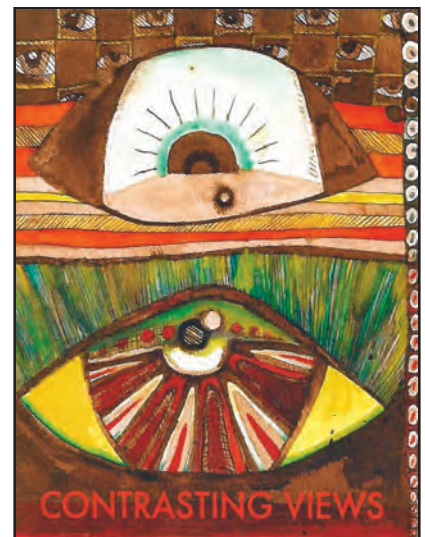
Preparing publicity materials was the next task, and we asked Sophie Van Der Heiden

to prepare original artwork to exemplify our *Contrasting Views* theme. Sophie agreed and within three weeks we received her beautiful composition. Sophie also prepared the general layout for a flier, which we only had to make a few minor modifications to update.

In fact, Sophie's publicity artwork was so impressive, we asked her to frame it and hung it in the gallery along with a copy of the flier, which explained the show and listed all the artists.

However, getting the flier past Vice President and Publicity Chair Barbara E. Jones was another story. As I discovered, Barbara has extensive career experience in publicity and editing. Her eagle eyes caught every inconsistency, every minor error and/or omission, and every possibly questionable misuse of style. After multiple deliberations and lengthy e-mail discussions, we settled on the final form of the document. In the final analysis, her help was invaluable in preparing a flawless and truly professional looking document.

Part three of this article will run in the September newsletter, where I will conclude my overview of creating a small group exhibit. Please stay tuned for more surprises and lessons learned.



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President's Message, continued from page 2

comfort. Depending on your individual perspective, this moment of overcoming the restrictions and distractions of technique and complacency may be many years away, or it may already seem long overdue. Perhaps you can sense it coming into reality, just around the corner. You might be rooting for it. In truth, the change could manifest right now. When you decide you are ready, you are ready.

Here is to your own powerful transformations.

—John Paul Thornton

Corrections

In the July interview with Donna Geist Buch, Donna has advised that workshops taken later from Loraine Veeck were at VIVA Art Center, not Otis; and that she said, "I love the Impressionists, e.g., Edgar Degas. They had a big influence on my use of pastels."

Submit to *The Creative Edge*

What's new with you? We need your book and exhibit reviews; art inspirations and resources; and story, technique, and material ideas. Tell us about your recent art awards, publications, and current or upcoming exhibits. Next deadline: **August 8**. Send e-mail or Word files, and high-quality digital photos, to VAG newsletter liaison Cat Van Der Heiden.

Members are...On Display, continued from page 3

Sharon Weaver is now represented by Gallery Elite in Carmel, California. Her oil-on-linen work *Faded Door at the Mission* is among the paintings on display at the San Carlos Street gallery. For details, see www.galleryelite.net.



Toni Scott, continued from page 1

to break into museums, how to discover the artist's calling, or how to communicate a message through art, Scott will share her remarkable journey as an artist.

Toni Scott's art and message is sure to have a dramatic impact on VAG members. *Invite a guest to join you* and don't miss this guest artist!

True art lies in a reality that is felt.

—*Odilon Redon*



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