



The Creative Edge

VALLEY ARTISTS GUILD

Volume I

Issue 4

September 2011

Experience More than Art at the Getty Center Museum

by Karen Robbins, Editor

Perched atop a hill in the Santa Monica mountains, the Getty Center is known as much for its stunning architecture as for its art collection and associated research, conservation, and charitable facilities. The West Los Angeles venue presents a collection of Western art spanning the middle ages to the present, set against a backdrop of tranquil gardens and breathtaking city views.



The collection of European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture, and decorative arts, plus European and American photographs and a selection from the special collections of the Research Institute's library, occupies five gallery pavilions. The entire Richard Meier-designed complex, clad in 1.2 million square feet of travertine, occupies 110 acres. It is organized around a central plaza, reached by computerized trams, and surrounded by fountains and gardens as well as the sweeping views. The Central Garden, designed by California artist Robert Irwin, is a sculpture in the form of a garden. The facility took 13 years to design and build, and includes subterranean corridors that link all the campus buildings.

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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

Learning From a Contemporary Master

How often do we get the opportunity to meet face to face with an artist who has shown her work at an esteemed museum? And how often does that artist create work that literally empowers us, moves us and relates to American history?

Artist Toni Scott is a must-see guest this September. The Valley Artist Guild is priding ourselves on hosting guest artists who have the ability to transform audiences through their presentations. Toni Scott brings vast knowledge, strong communication skills, an ability to touch people's hearts with her art and a body of work that is positively overwhelming. As a painter, sculptor, photographer and mixed-media artist, she recently commanded an entire room at the California African-American Museum. Her art is about humanity, emotion, conviction and sheer dedication. A presentation of her artwork, her journey and her stories about the art world will captivate you and inspire you in your own quest.

Bring a notebook to ask questions. Toni has so much to offer! You will be thrilled to meet such a warm, passionate and talented creator.

Our VAG exhibition schedule has been packed with shows and we have a fantastic series of workshops and events this Fall season. I look forward to seeing all of you this September as we meet with the esteemed artist Toni Scott.

—John Paul Thornton



*Art does not reproduce
what is visible, it makes
things visible.*

—Paul Klee

Members Are... Now Appearing

Lisa August and **Harriette Kahn** have been juried into the Small Wonders Exhibit at Towns Burr Gallery, opening artists' reception September 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. Located at 3609 West Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank 91505. The show continues through September 30; see www.townsburrgallery.com (shown, Kahn's *Blue Dancer in the Black Hole*).



Donna Geist Buch and **Debra Hintz** are showing their paintings in the WPW@Schomburg Gallery exhibit, opening September 10 with an artists' reception from 4 to 7 p.m., running through October 9. Located at Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave. E-3A, Santa Monica 90404 (shown,



Hintz's painting *Shaded*). **Donna's** acrylic mixed media/collage on canvas *Destinations* was accepted into Brand 40: Works on Paper, opening September 17 at the Brand Library Art Gallery, 1601 West Mountain St., Glendale 91201 with a reception from 6–9 p.m. The show continues through October 28.

Three works by **Ione Citrin** are now appearing in the Caladan Gallery online exhibit *Depth of Meaning*; see www.caladanguard.com. Her work is also on display at the ArcLight Cinema in Pasadena.

Terry Romero Paul's and **Beth Summers'** work can be seen at A Touch of Gold show, through October 31 at the historic Blinn House, 160 Oakland Avenue, Pasadena 91101. See www.danielakart.com. **Terry, Beth,** and **Trice Tolle** had paintings accepted into

Get "Refreshed" at the September Meeting

New Hospitality Chair Barbara Schwartz is upping the enjoyment factor at VAG general meetings by making sure that refreshments are served. Come partake of yummy snacks while experiencing our guest presenter and enjoying interaction with other members. Hope to see you on September 20!

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.

Committee Volunteers Wanted!

Take advantage of this opportunity to participate on a VAG committee! We are looking for several members serve on committees including Hospitality, Publicity, and more. Can you volunteer? Contact membership chair Ken Ronney at kronney@aol.com for details.

Professional Development

What It Takes to Organize a Small Group Exhibit, Part 3

by Ken Ronney, Exhibit Co-Coordinator

In this last installment, materials and arrangements are finalized and the Contrasting Views exhibit comes together.

Again I struggled with publishing an exhibit flyer using Microsoft Word, which easily allows images to be added to the text. But when I tried to e-mail the flyer, Sophie Van Der Heiden's exhibit poster image vanished. I finally found a solution, but now know that using PDF software could have avoided the commotion. With publicity guidance from Barbara E. Jones, I also prepared a news release and e-mail notice to VAG members announcing the exhibit and opening reception.

Co-coordinator Dorothy Shepherd took the lead on artwork hanging. When we saw the work laid out, we agreed to keep each artist's work together as much as possible. We made use of the odd spaces under the gallery windows and in corners

to show my sculptures. Loel Jurado gathered biographies with photos from all group members, edited them as needed, and had them laminated to hang near each artist's work.

The reception was a very successful event, with a good turnout. Bryan Fair handled the refreshment table. The group determined how much was needed; then Bryan took over, ordering food and beverages, and picking them up himself on the night of the reception. Bryan hit a glitch with car trouble en route to the gallery. Luckily he was rescued by a friend and managed to arrive on time, if a bit stressed from the experience.

At take-down, Canoga Park Youth Arts Center

gallery director Stuart Vaughan thanked us for putting on the exhibit and invited VAG back next year.

The group learned some important lessons from this small group exhibit project. First, that communica-





Clockwise from left (this page): the Contrasting Views artists: Ken Ronney, Loel Jurado, Ilsa Dattinger, Bryan Fair, Sophie Van Der Heiden, and Dorothy Shepherd; Donna Geist Buch and Fritz Suter chat with a visitor; Ilsa Dattinger and Dori Marler view Ilsa's paintings; new VAG member Sophie Van Der Heiden with two of her pieces; (facing page) paintings by Norm Beal and a Ken Ronney sculpture; guests at the artists' reception enjoy refreshments and lots of discussion; three paintings by Bryan Fair.



tion between group members is essential. We had a few ongoing communication problems. I recommend at least weekly communication with the coordinator. Second, that promotion and publicity requirements may be a challenge to those who aren't familiar with them. If that's the case, get guidance early on from the VAG Publicity Chair. Last, expect surprises; enjoy them, and adjust accordingly.

Learning how to run an exhibit has been a fascinating experience, and has given me a much better perspective on what goes into exhibit planning and execution. On behalf of the exhibiting group, I thank VAG—and especially Donna Geist Buch—for this opportunity.

Getty, continued from page 1

One of the captivating elements of the Getty campus is light. The split fossilized travertine—16,000 tons of it from Bagni di Tivoli, Italy cut with a special guillotine—bathes the exterior in sharp morning sun and warm afternoon glow. Interiors grab outdoor light through a system of computer-assisted louvers and shades. Upper-level galleries are all naturally lit, employing special filters to prevent artwork damage.

Exhibits on display during VAG's visit on Sunday, October 16, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. include *In Focus: The Sky*, 22 photographs from the 1850s to present that study the sky, clouds, light, night, and color; *Luminous Paper: British Watercolors and Drawings*, works of British masters from the 1700s and 1800s along with three recent watercolors by David Hockney; and *La Roldana's Saint Ginés: The Making of a Polychrome Sculpture*, which uses the sculpture to explore the life of Spanish court artist Luisa Roldán. New galleries for sculpture and decorative arts also opened within the last year.

The Getty campus includes several restaurants, cafés, and snack carts throughout the complex. There is a picnic area at the lower tram station. The newly-renovated museum store offers books, gifts, posters, scarves, ties, and children's art kits. Smaller gallery shops focus on impressionism, photography, and the current exhibitions, as well as educational and children's activities.

Be sure to visit the Getty website, <http://www.getty.edu>, where you can read more about selected works in these exhibits, download guides and maps, and check out other activities and events.



September Presentation with Toni Scott

Don't forget to attend VAG's September 20 general meeting featuring acclaimed artist Toni Scott. Her multimedia presentation and lecture will take you through her personal journey into her heritage and family tree. Scott's unique work in paint, stone, fiberglass, bronze, wood, and photography will captivate and inspire you. See page 2 for more on this fascinating artist.



Unlock Your Creative Self at Artist's Way Workshop

Mixed-media artist and longtime workshop facilitator Chantel Zimmerman offers a new Artist's Way workshop series beginning September 28. Based on Julia Margaret Cameron's book of the same name, the 12-part workshop is designed to help artists of all levels overcome obstacles, spur imagination, increase creative confidence, and explore the individual's creative expression. Learn how to take creative risks, get past the blank page, gain fresh perspective and inspiration, and achieve your creative potential.

The workshop runs for 12 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Woodland Hills. Participants need not have already read *The Artist's Way*. Workshop fee is \$350 if registered in advance, \$375 at the door. Bring a friend and both receive a 50% discount; a payment plan is also available. For more details and to enroll, call 877-944-6797 or send e-mail to chantel@artandsoullab.com.

*It's not what you
look at that
matters, it's
what you see.*

*—Henry David
Thoreau*

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Reach over 150 VAG member artists, and their colleagues, friends, and associates, by promoting your creative products and services here! It's easy and inexpensive. Contact Trice Tolle at 818-345-1671 or tricetolle@aol.com.

Ronit Lidor and Elaine Verchick Elevated to Exhibiting Status

Two associate members were elevated to exhibiting member status at the July board meeting. New member Ronit Lidor and one-year member Elaine Verchick each submitted three paintings for review by the Exhibit Committee and Board of Directors. Both showed qualifying work and were elevated to exhibiting status.

WORKSHOPS

Watermedia Painting All levels, Studio City, 10 Tuesdays starting September 13, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$20/session, \$180/10 sessions (check only). Expand your art experience using watercolor and mixed media in conventional and unconventional ways. Small group. Supply list and enrollment at <http://www.watermediabyrea.com>. Contact Rea Nagel, reanagel@me.com, 818-908-5919

Drawing is not the same as form; it is a way of seeing form.

—Edgar Degas

Submit to *The Creative Edge*

Do you have news? Tell us about your recent awards, publications, and current and upcoming exhibits. You can submit a book or exhibit review, technique, art resource, and story ideas. Next deadline is **September 8**. Send submissions to VAG newsletter liaison Cat Van Der Heiden at cvanderheiden@att.net.

Members are... Now Appearing, continued from page 3

Gifts for the Table: California's Amazing Bounty, September 17 through November 5 at La Galeria Gitana, 120 N. Maclay St., San Fernando 91340. See www.galeriagitana.com (shown, Summers' *Pumpkins in My Garden*, oil). **Beth's** work can also be seen at the Mammoth Lakes Fine Art Festival, September 3–5.

