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“Arts Illuminator” debuts at new CMH Cancer Center



As part of a continuing partnership between the City of Ventura Public Art Program and Community Memorial Hospital a new exhibition space was dedicated on Thursday, February 24 at the Coastal Communities Cancer Center located at Loma Vista and Joanne Streets. Three sides of the building exterior have been installed with lighted window boxes in order to install rotating exhibitions of local and regional artists’ work. The first installation features the work of Ventura painters Carole Milton and Susan Cook along with Ojai artist Nicole Van Dam.

A committee of Public Art Commissioners, Center medical professionals and local artists will curate future exhibits at this beautiful arts space that will serve to inspire residents and visiting patients through the healing qualities of art. For more information about this project, please contact Public Art Project Manager Julie Maechler at jmaechler@cityofventura.net

Body Shop, Artist and De Anza Students Team Up to Create Artful Rec-Mobile

How do you transform a plain Jane utility trailer into an eye-catching work of art? Hire an artist and enlist the assistance of talented young people and the work is done. In October of 2010 the Public Art Program partnering with the Ventura Police Activities League and the City's Recreation Division oversaw an art project that created this transformation. The trailer, funded through a generous donation by the Ventura PAL Program, will be used to deliver recreation programs to over 500 students throughout the community at offsite locations.

Artist MB Hanrahan working with students in the De Anza ASES program created fanciful designs and worked to complete the art project in February. Inspired by the project and wanting to give back to the community, Armando Vazquez, owner of Avenue Body Shop, offered to do all of the preliminary painting and final seal on the trailer. Look for this trailer to roll into your neighborhood soon.



“Travels in Time” at SCIART Opens with March 5th Reception



STUDIO CHANNEL ISLANDS
ART CENTER

Studio Channel Islands Art Center (SCIART) will showcase works by Patricia Richards Dodds and Peter Cannon, SCIAC founding members, and Michele Chapin, Santa Cruz Art Center founding member from March 5 to April 2, Opening reception: March 5, 4-6 pm.

Dodds' current work, “Travels in Time”, is her painterly journal of the worldwide places she has been. “Water and its reflections are my muse,” says the artist. After attending the Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles, she furthered her studies at Ventura College under the tutelage of Gerd Koch, Hiroko Yoshimoto and Mary Michel. When she entered the world of banking in 1989, she stage exhibits featuring many of the Ventura County's top artists. J. Handel Evans, Planning President of California State University Channel Islands, approached her with the idea of creating a cultural hub on campus. Working with a core group of founders, SCIART was established in 1998. The Ventura County Arts Council awarded Dodds “Artist in the Community” in 2007 for her dedication, among many honors recognizing her efforts for many county non-profits.

UK-born and Malta-raised Peter Cannon creates paintings that range from realism to fantasy influenced by a wide range of studies from artificial vision to folk legend. His professional career in high-technology industries, as vice president of research and chief scientist of Rockwell International, has taken him into many global locations. As SCIART founder and board member, he shares his appreciation and advocacy for “all things art” and is an avid art collector.

Michele Chapin, a working California artist for 30 years whose work was featured at the 2010 reopening of the Ventura County Museum, creates sculptures mostly from stones that she has quarried from local deserts in California. She pioneered fountains that hydroplane large carved marble spheres and received a Mayor's Arts Award in 2009 for her community arts activism. She works extensively with at-risk youths, hosts carving field trips, public tours and lectures while teaching and featuring local artists in her Stoneworks Studio gallery.

- Gallery Hours: Tues, 11 am - 3 pm; Wed-Fri, 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 3 pm
- Studio Channel Islands Art Center, 2221 Ventura Boulevard, Camarillo, CA 93010
- Information: Karin Geiger at 805.383.1368 or sciartcenter@verizon.net

Umbrella Art Reigns Over the Tenth Annual Festival of Talent



Elementary, middle and high school VUSD students, used umbrellas as their canvas to celebrate the “music in me” theme of the 10th annual Festival of Talent, on Saturday, February 26, at the Ventura High School Auditorium. The stunning, one-of-a-kind, Art Umbrellas, sold at silent auction, revealed the passion of young artists and acknowledged that the visual arts are alive and well in our city schools.

The Ventura Education Arts Collaborative, formed five years ago to work with the VUSD to initiate and create an Arts Education Master Plan, used the “Art Umbrella” fundraiser to generate money to insure that visual and performing arts are an integral, interdisciplinary, sequential part of every VUSD student’s education. For more information, contact Kathryn Dipping Lawson at kdipping@ci.ventura.ca.us.

Performance Theatre for Young Artists’ Presents “Les Miserables” on March 11-20

For the past 11 years, Performance Theatre for Young Artists has offered year round musical theater programs to children and teens in Ventura County, as well as high quality theatrical productions to our community. Located at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura, PTYA offers workshops, classes and production program, focusing primarily on musical theater. Young artists learn and develop skills and talents in acting, singing, dance, live performance and technical theater while working on theatrical productions ranging from large scale popular musicals to original works.



PTYA’s March 11-20 production of the popular musical masterpiece, “Les Miserables” (School Edition) at Poinsettia Pavilion, features Foothill Technology High School Senior, Bill Grundler as Jean Valjean, and a “dream cast” of 35 talented Ventura County youths between the ages of 9 and 18. Set in 19th Century France, this intensely stirring musical is completely sung, and is a great study for young artists, not only in singing but also in acting and live performance. Contact (805) 653-1962 or ptya@sbcglobal.net for tickets and more information or visit www.ptya.org.

Marta Dewey founded PTYA in 1999, while teaching Elementary and High School music and theater. She saw a need for youth performing arts programs in the community. Over the years, PTYA has grown and developed into one of the county’s top youth theater organizations. PTYA encourages participants of all cultural and economic backgrounds. A nonprofit organization, Performance Theatre, runs with the help of a volunteer staff, parents and youth participants.

315 Poems Featured at AUG Reading March 15 and March 19 Ojai WordFest Book Fair



Poetry readings, a book fair and literary festival will feature the work of leading 315 writers who provide “insight into a collective nighttime mind.” Poets Gwendolyn Alley and Danika Dinsmore [See related “Ocean to Ojai” event below] are the editors of “between sleeps the 3:15 experiments (en theos press, \$12.95) featuring the middle-of-the night work of two dozen writers across the globe challenged to write outside the confines of their work-a-day consciousness by engaging in a unique experiment: to write every August morning at 3:15 am

wherever they were.” The raw, unedited poems are published at www.315experiment.com. Also, at the en theos press booth at the Ojai WordFest Book Fair on Saturday, March 19, at noon Gwendolyn and Danika will sign books. At 2 pm Gwendolyn will host a Poets Living Room open mic and at 3:15, attendees are invited to join a special daytime 3:15 experiment writing exercise followed by an open reading for any participants of the 3:15 experiment.

Gwendolyn continues this writing process in her new chapbook, “middle of the night poems from daughter to mother :: mother to son” collecting her 2002-2010 3:15 experiment poems which detail the joys and challenges of becoming a mother, being a daughter and losing a mother. Hear her read from the new collection (available for purchase for \$12.95 at the reading, from en theos press and from Amazon) at Artists Union Gallery, 330 South California Street in Ventura, on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 pm. 315 poets are encouraged to read in the open mic that follows. Visit www.venturaartistsunion.org or www.thewritealley.com for details.

Ojai WordFest Message in a Bottle Writing Workshop set for March 23-24

As part of Ojai WordFest, a nine-day literary extravaganza from March 19 to 27, Ventura and Vancouver writing teachers Gwendolyn Alley and Danika Dinsmore invite area poets and writers to “arose your senses and awaken your imagination on a creative journey” by attending the “Ocean to Ojai: Message in a Bottle” workshop events on March 23-24 at various locations in Ventura and Ojai. Wednesday night wine tasting in downtown Ventura with local winemakers and a winemaker dinner (with a special package of overnight accommodations available in historic Ventura) are followed by Thursday morning pastries and coffee at the Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center and whale watching and writing on the Santa Barbara Channel. After a winemaker lunch, food and wine pairings and more writing at Old Creek Ranch is the open mic and wine tasting finale in Ojai. Visit www.ojaiwordfest.wordpress.com for festival details and www.thewritealley.com for Message in a Bottle registration.



Landscape Photography Workshop March 18-20



The Museum of Ventura County, 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, will present a landscape photography workshop on March 18, 19 and 20, designed for those interested in making better outdoor photographic art. Veteran landscape photographers Tom Gamache and Van Webster will conduct the workshop, which includes classroom time at the museum in Ventura and field trips to Rancho Sierra Vista Satwiwa in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area, and to the Wildwood Park area of Thousand Oaks. Cost is \$350 for the general public and \$295 for museum members; photography equipment and transportation are not included. Participants must be in good health and able to hike and carry their equipment to and from the offsite photo shoots. For reservations or more information, call 805-653-0323 x 305. More museum events at www.venturamuseum.org.

Gamache has been photographing the Santa Monica Mountains for more than 30 years. A retrospective exhibition of his prints continues through March 15 at the Santa Monica Mountains Range National Parks Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks. He is also the co-author of the book *Range on the Edge - The Santa Monica Mountains*. Webster's photography focuses on landscape and architectural subjects in California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. With an extensive background in media production, he was a UCLA Arts Extension faculty member and program chair for more than 20 years. The two photographers have been presenting "Wandering Around Outdoors" photography workshops for a number of years. For more information, visit www.tomgamache.com.



Applications now available for Thousand Oaks Artwalk 2011 on June 4-5



ArtWalk '11, a fine arts and designer crafts outdoor exhibition presented by the Conejo Valley Art Museum with the assistance of the Conejo Recreation & Park District, will be presented on the Bank of America grounds, 225 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, on Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free to this great family event. Now celebrating its 24th successful year, ArtWalk will feature over 150 artists, complimented by musicians, a hands-on art area for children and food presentations by local restaurants.

If you are an artist, food concessionaire, musician or want to become a part of the volunteer crew, please contact the Conejo Valley Art Museum at 805.492.8778 or the ArtWalk Coordinator Julie Webb at 805 490 2123 or bjwebb323@verizon.net. Artist applications are

available at the Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills Libraries, Thousand Oaks City Hall, and may also be downloaded from the Museum's website at www.cvam.us/.

Ventura's ArtWalk evolves to Westside ArtWalk on July 23-24



The City of Ventura and community partners have been going through the exciting process of designing a new art event that will replace, enhance or re-imagine Ventura's ArtWalk. Since this long-running event began, the City's artistic landscape has changed considerably over the years, with the WAV, Bell Arts Factory, Art City, Crowne Plaza, Red Brick Gallery, Sylvia White Studios, Stoneworks, BAA and the newly remodeled Ventura County Museum able to house multiple artists and art exhibits. Knowing that the City no longer had the funding and staffing to fully support ArtWalk, an initial stakeholders meeting was held on December 10 at City Hall to talk about the future of ArtWalk. See the Jan-Feb 2011 issue (page 6)

of State of the Arts for a discussion of issues from last year's meeting.

Consultant Doug Green was asked to facilitate the next key stakeholders meeting and community workshop. The objectives of the February 3, 2011 All Arts Stakeholders Meeting, which was held in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, were to: cultivate a shared vision for the evolution of the ArtWalk; identify key success factors for implementing the event; develop a structure for a committee to guide the process; and brainstorm important stakeholders to involve in the work.

After a very successful and productive meeting, a final Community Workshop was held at the Bell Arts Factory on February 15 to agree on name and concept for event, define committee member roles, and develop a simple cost structure for participation and a registration process, a task list and timeline and the first steps for outreach.

A new name, Westside ArtWalk: Ventura's aRt Evolution, was selected and committees are being formed to coordinate the event. Josh Addison, founder of the Bell Arts Factory and a strong force behind the creation of the Westside ArtWalk, says, "Ventura artists again rise to the occasion, demonstrating commitment to creative community collaboration. Westside ArtWalk, Ventura's aRt evolution, emerges as artists together lead the way. Happening July 23 and 24, 2011, focusing on art and artists, Westside ArtWalk celebrates Ventura as California's ArtCity. Inside and out, studio artists, galleries, and arts organizations throw open their doors, raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the arts. Ventura's aRt evolution offers opportunities for artists to sell art, while generating the fun, inspiration and "buzz" needed to build momentum, attract resources and reinvigorate ArtWalk. Artists are compelled to create - so together, onwards!"

For more information, contact Georgeanne Lees at glees@cityofventura.net.

Olivas Small Adobe receives VCCF Heritage Fund grant

The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) Heritage Fund has awarded the city of Ventura a grant of \$3,567 to help develop interpretive displays and signage in the newly renovated and seismically strengthened Small Adobe at the Olivas Adobe Historic Park. The tattered Small Adobe-now wholly repaired, but as of yet unfurnished-awaits its new role as a hands-on learning center for visitors to interpret the history of the adobe as the former Rancho San Miguel. The City of Ventura hosted the VCCF Heritage Fund 2011 grant awards reception for all Ventura County grant recipients at the Olivas Adobe on February 9.

