

Quarry Cove Art Gallery: *Life by the Sea* Exhibition

Reception with artists, Saturday, July 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Rockaway Beach, Pacifica

The Pacific Ocean coastline offers an ever-changing mosaic of beauty that can become invisible to us in its familiarity. But the exhibition *Life by the Sea*, presented by Pacifica Art Connection, commands our attention and reopens our hearts to the stunning landscapes, seascapes, and coastal landmarks. The 54 photographs and ceramic pieces by local artists Celeste Langille, Leo Leon, and Mike Pickard exemplify living by the coast.

Photographer Celeste Langille is inspired by the endless beauty and drama of bodies of water intersecting with land as well as capturing moments in time when people and wildlife are enjoying or living on the coast. One standout photograph among many in her collection is *Wave, Rock, Splash*, which depicts the awe-inspiring collision of the ocean against a rock outcropping with the sun dropping into the horizon. In *Barefoot Bicycle—Hanalei*, Langille portrays a timeless image of peaceful beauty that draws viewers into her moment of happiness. Her piece *Pedro Point* highlights a classic Pacifica beach scene, with strolling surfers and colorful hillside houses. Langille's collection provides a walking tour from Kauai to Pedro Point and over to the bluffs near Land's End.

Incorporating photography of our coastline into his daily life and committed to broadening his knowledge each day, Leo Leon strives to portray the special qualities that reside in everything he photographs. In *Whale Tail*, water cascades in a stunning second of symmetry as Leo photographs from the shore of Sharp Park Beach. With his camera, Leo brilliantly paints the panorama of the Pacifica coastline in *From Here to Eternity—Rollene*. This very personal image portrays his dear departed wife Rollene, as she stands on the cliffs of Pacifica at sunrise, her last visit to the ocean. In *Wildflowers on Coastal Bluffs*, Leo celebrates the beauty of wildflowers, our enjoyment of them, and the renewal of life on Mori Point. Leo's photographs, which are also used for educational purposes and by environmental specialists, express his passion for photography and his love of nature and family.

Potter and "Clayman" Mike Pickard draws his creativity from natural forms, the golden proportions in nature, traditional Japanese and Korean pottery, as well as custom hot rods. His wood-fired vessels embody grace in their form and design, while they mirror the movement of the ocean, as well as the elemental intersections at the coastline and horizon. With *Jug #1*, *Jug #2*, and *Large Vase with Lugs*, Pickard captures the intersection of sea and sand, the surface designs forged from the fire's path, raging currents, eddies, and turbulence interacting with the ash and glaze. In *Tears of the Dolphin*, the profile is an ever-changing curve, a segment of a spiral, enhanced by the glossy and textured matte grays and the ash glaze drips. His piece *Alien Gas Tank* is deep crimson red with a striking gold dust layer superimposed, which suggests the surface of an alien planet, as well as stretches of sand along our coastline. Pickard's dedication to the wood fire process and community shines in these successful works whose interpretations ignite the imagination.

You are invited to attend a reception with the artists on Saturday, July 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. *Life by the Sea* runs through Saturday, July 29. Quarry Cove Art Gallery is at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, next to Avani Salon. The Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cindy Chan