

Quarry Cove Art Gallery presents "Scenic View"

Reception with the artists: Saturday, February 29, 2020, 2-4 p.m.

225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, Pacifica (off Highway 1)

"Scenic View" is a celebration of nature and man-made wonders, the peaceful and majestic, the nearby and far off. Pacifica Art Connection members and avid travelers Margaret Welsh and Judy Quitoriano chose "Scenic View" as their exhibit theme as they are both enamored with the beauty of the outdoors. In this exhibit, they show 32 paintings and photographs along with six ceramic artworks that transport viewers from the Pacific Coast, to locations such as Yosemite National Park, the Central Valley, New Mexico, Vermont, and British Columbia.

In her selected collection, painter Margaret Welsh, now 93 years old and a longtime Pacifica resident, features striking acrylic landscape paintings and architectural depictions. During her 40 years as a painter in both watercolors and acrylics, Welsh has embraced the challenge to create texture and form, portraying both the large panoramic scenes and the small individual designs of nature.

Welsh communicates her love for the Pacific Coast in her landscape "Shelter Cove," a panoramic view of this beach community in the Pedro Point section of Pacifica. At the mid-landing of the gallery stairway, her painting "Yosemite Falls" captures the powerfully cascading waterfall, framed by upward-reaching tree branches. On the main gallery wall, placed side by side, "Alaska Ice Fields" and "Canadian Rockies" honor glaciers, snowfall, and the surrounding forest growth that are rapidly changing with global warming. In "Vermont Covered Bridge" we are treated to the turning of the autumn leaves and Welsh's architectural representation of these historical structures. Her artistic skill and thoughtful study of nature infuse each of Welsh's paintings with a quiet intensity and an appreciation for the world we live in.

Equally as accomplished, multimedia Artist Judy Quitoriano shines in her artistic interpretation and renderings, as well as her narratives accompanying individual artworks. Her large photograph "The Bridge From My Life To His" is exquisite in both vantage point and composition:

the towering Lyons Gate Bridge rises into the sky with a subtle lavender mist cityscape but a shadow in the background. Under this bridge in Vancouver, Quitariano and her husband camped 46 years ago for their honeymoon.

For Quitariano, her art is both an expression of creativity and a way to honor places and people. When she paints the Southwest, her color palette is not only rich siennas and sun-baked sandstone, but also cactus greens and sunset purples reflecting its cliffs and other geological wonders. Exhibited in the gallery sculpture bay, "Autumn Swept In" shows glowing autumn leaves superimposed on casitas (small cottages), a depiction of her love for Santa Fe in the autumn of her life. In the painting "The Mountains and the Mist," Quitariano creates a moving, luminescent rendering of clouds hovering between the peaks of a mountain range at high elevations above Santa Fe. "Storm Washed" is both eye-catching and peaceful in its dreamscape of tiered waterfalls and vibrant foliage, which evokes a sense of hopefulness and peace. For Quitariano, this piece represents a symbolic washing away of her nephew's suffering after the storm of cancer. Quitariano's heart and creativity glow brightly in this exhibit of scenic views.

Welsh and Quitariano co-exhibit annually at Quarry Cove Art Gallery and "Scenic View" is their ninth show together. They invite you to attend their reception to celebrate their art, as well as enjoy home-baked refreshments. "Scenic Views" will be exhibited from February 3 to March 27, 2020. Quarry Cove Art Gallery is at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, off Highway 1 and next to Avani Salon. The gallery hours are Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cindy Chan

