

"Bursting with Life" Quarry Cove Art Gallery in Pacifica
Photography and Ceramic Sculpture
Reception with the Artists, Sat., Feb 9, 2-4 pm

Presented by the Pacifica Art Connection, "Bursting with Life" is an energetic and spirited collection of 51 photographs and ceramic sculptures that honor a diversity of ecosystems, marine life, land animals, and coastal birds. This exhibit is always joyful, sometimes whimsical, and more often thought-provoking.

The Photography:

In her collection of 34 landscapes, animal/bird portraits, close-ups, and collages, Photographer Denise Buckley Crawford portrays both the momentary and the timeless through her lens as she appreciates nature and welcomes new perspectives.

In a series of three photographs, Crawford takes us through a crystal ball, quite literally. In "Beach Ball," "Sunset Ball," and "Bubble Dream," she creates stunning nature landscapes, viewed through crystal balls, inset into inverted surrounding backgrounds. Hard to describe, but a "must see," the juxtaposition of the perspectives and focal points challenges both the photographer and viewer to stop, think, and appreciate.

Crawford's wildlife photography is exceptional as she captures a split second of action which embodies each animal's life. "Snowy Egret in Breeding Plumage," "Sanderlings Flow with the Tide," and "Humpback Whale Lung Feeding" are examples of her expertise and patience with outdoor, live action photography.

On a playful note, in her "Beach Dogs" collage, Crawford features canine athletes from the 1st and 2nd World Champion Dog Surfing Competition in Pacifica. In one stand-out photograph "Abbie Girl," the 2016-17 World Champion of Solo Dog Surfing, multitasks as she shows off both her surfing skills and relaxed confidence by shaking off excess water while riding the waves.

Shifting her perspective from ocean to land, Crawford also treats us to a close study of California wildflowers. In her collage "Wildflower," she showcases spring blooms, the fiddle neck and tidy tip, found on Carizzo Plain near Bakersfield, as well as the bird's foot trefoil at Mori Point.

The Sculpture:

In confluence with Crawford's photography, the gallery's sculpture bay bursts with life that is embodied in 17 unique ceramic sculptures of animals from the land and sea. These sculptures were created by 9 ceramic artists from Clay Creations, the ceramics studio in Pacifica.

Achieving outstanding realistic representation, Dody Lapworth and Wendy Snyder honor a frequent Pacifica visitor in their large sculptures, "Pelican in Flight" and "Pensive Pelican" respectively. They portray the bird's beauty, grace, and prehistoric origins through form, astonishing feather sculpting, and striking glaze treatments. Lindsay Fulmer contributes a playful spirit with her adorable "Otter Nonsense," a sea otter emerging from the ocean clutching a crustacean.

Rose Hasha trumpets ocean life in "Deep Sea Fish," an angler fish with an amazingly sculpted set of fierce teeth. Experimenting with closed forms and Raku glazing techniques. Amy Taub exhibits "Jeweled Sea Form," which resembles a comb jellyfish, a glittering dirigible with rows of cilia. Manuela Sherman draws from her imagination to create 2 whimsical abstract Raku-fired sculptures, "Water Bird" and "Laughing Beast." A deep red octopus (by Dody Lapworth) also makes the sculpture bay its residence.

Along with coastal life forms, land residing mammals are portrayed in sculpture. Closer to home, Kayoko Kanazawa and Wendy Snyder share their respective family members "Abby The Dog" and "Jack the Cat" with us. Guillaume Lorget has sculpted "She Thinks...." a life-like and life-sized bust of a gorilla. Her expressive face and features, especially her eyes and mouth, convey a moving, yet quiet, sense of compassion and deep thinking. Patricia Chuson celebrates the majesty and lives of stags in her multimedia artwork. Surrounded by colorful dried flowers and mounted on a wood plaque, her stag bust features sculpted antlers that embody both strength and beauty.

Overlooking the animal and sea life, as well as offering a protective presence, is a statue of a Buddha also sculpted by Kanazawa. It serves as a reminder to preserve all life while it also offers a spiritual and meditative dimension to this far-reaching exhibit.

"Bursting with Life" is a "must see" for nature and animal-lovers alike, as well as those who enjoy the outdoors. You are invited to attend a reception with the artists to be held on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 2--4 pm. "Bursting with Life" will be exhibited through Saturday, March 2, 2019. The Quarry Cove Art Gallery is located at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, off Hwy 1 and next to Avani Salon. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 11 am--4 pm.

Article written by Cindy Chan