

(1) calendar listing:

Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica—*An Observant Eye*, an exhibition in the Main Gallery of works by photographer Barbara Ramos, curated by Alida Bray, will open Friday, February 24, with an evening reception from 7 to 9 pm. Concurrently opening in the East Gallery, Bay Area Basket Makers are showing woven pieces made with an exciting variety of materials in, *Diversity*. And, in the West Gallery, Art Guild of Pacifica members are sharing their work made in a variety of mediums in a group show titled, *Sitting Pretty*. Artists from all three exhibitions will be on hand for the opening night reception that will also include live music by Vivace, and the public is welcome to enjoy and converse. Basket making demonstration by Bay Area Basket Makers, will take place on Saturday, March 11, beginning at 2 pm. On the last day of all three exhibitions, Sunday, March 26, beginning at 3:30 pm, curator Alida Bray will talk in the Main Gallery with artist Barbara Ramos about her decades of work in photography. Sanchez Art Center is located at 1220 Linda Mar Blvd, Pacifica, CA. Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm, and by appointment, during exhibits (except opening nights). For more information: 650-355-1894, www.SanchezArtCenter.org.

(2) press release:

Barbara Ramos, *An Observant Eye*, at Sanchez Art Center

Barbara Ramos, *An Observant Eye* features mostly black and white photographic images taken in the 1970's and new works initiated during the pandemic, curated by Alida Bray. The exhibition will open concurrently with two additional shows including Bay Area Basket Makers, *Diversity*, and a group show, *Sitting Pretty*, by members of the Art Guild of Pacifica. All three new exhibitions will open with a reception in the galleries on Friday, February 24, from 7 to 9 pm, with live music by Vivace.

Barbara Ramos, energetically connected with her photographic practice throughout the 1970's, she recognized she needed to make a conscious decision about how to make a living and raise a family. She determined that the active way in which she engaged with photography, "every waking minute, obsessed by looking, by exploring the world" wasn't going to be possible for her to continue. Thinking that photography was part of her "former younger self" she initially began to throw away her negatives 45 years ago — to fortunately have then retrieved by her husband — and instead packed them away in boxes.

An unanticipated silver lining to pandemic shelter-in restrictions was the opportunity of time to re-engage with her negatives. An intention to review, edit and digitalize what was in the trove of boxes, also created a means to share the newly formatted photographic images on social media, where Barbara received admiration and encouragement.

Barbara Ramos was born in New York City, moving with her family at the age of six to Los Angeles. Her father worked in the film industry and it was exciting to walk through the sets with him. The black and white stills on his worktable didn't actively draw her in, though subconsciously they likely set the foundation for her future work. In 1969, she moved to San Francisco to attend the San Francisco Art Institute, where she studied with Imogen Cunningham, Richard Conrat, John Collier Jr., Jerry Burchard and Margery Mann, and received her BFA in photography. Her MA in Creative Arts Interdisciplinary, from San Francisco State, was achieved in 1973.

Barbara Ramos' earlier works were primarily street images, documenting with intense curiosity what she saw around her, freely preserving the people and artifacts of the times from North Beach and Chinatown to Market Street. Her current work continues this focus, from walks in the Inner Richmond District and other neighborhoods. And, she's discovered joy in taking nature photographs, stemming from time outdoors, again during the pandemic, in San Mateo and Marin Counties.

A blending of vintage photographs form the basis of the exhibition juxtaposed with new images taken over the past few years. Ramos notes, “It’s heartening to know that I’ve not lost my passion to photograph even though I’ve not photographed for decades. Knowing that so many people have responded to both my vintage and current photographs is uplifting.”

For additional insight into the artist and her work, come to the Artist/Curator Talk on closing Sunday, March 26 at 3:30 pm.

In the East Gallery are the works of members of the Bay Area Basket Makers, showing three dimensional wall and free-standing pieces created from an exciting variety of materials, in a show titled *Diversity*. Baskets are diverse just by nature of their techniques and materials, whether traditional or contemporary, functional or non-functional. Nature materials used in weaving the pieces in the show range from kelp to eucalyptus bark, palm inflorescence to pine needles, gourds and more, supplemented by man-made materials such as beads, tea bags, waxed cord, and even scrap electrical wire and a discarded Westinghouse fan cover.

Though contemporary fiber vessels may not be functional, as sculpture they convey diverse emotions, ideas, and states of mind. Techniques such as Japanese flower knot plaiting can inspire the final shape. A collection of work, by Barbara Shapiro, “Urns for Covid” symbolizes a “congregation of loss, so many people, each an individual loss.” Michelle Sonnenfeld’s piece “Trying to Hold Time” represents the futility of trying to hold on to time. The artist shares, “as hard as we might try to grasp and hold onto time, it evaporates into thin air.”

The Bay Area Basket Makers (BABM) guild was founded 38 years ago to support interest in basketry as a craft and art form. The guild serves as a community resource with workshops, classes, monthly meet ups and mentorship. The exhibition was coordinated by Bob Darchi. The works of a dozen basket makers are included in the show.

Members of Bay Area Basket Makers will provide live demonstrations on Saturday, March 11, beginning at 2:00 pm in the East Gallery.

The West Gallery is presenting a group show by the Art Guild of Pacifica members, *Sitting Pretty*. Pieces include assemblage, ceramic sculpture, paintings in acrylic, oil and watercolor, mixed media and more, reflecting each artist’s interpretation of the phrase —the act of sitting, on cloud nine, positioned prettily, figurative poses and more. Artworks include Leah De Nola’s acrylic painting “Metamorphosis” with a woman seated at a table, facing away in a contemplative scene in soft colors. Nancy Hall’s assemblage “Sitting Pretty” collects objects precisely positioned on an ornate metal stand with fabric draping. And ceramicist Dody Lapworth is showing a puffin sitting on a rock, “Successful Dive” with a tasty seafood bite. The Art Guild holds four themed exhibitions a year, plus an annual members’ show, and a holiday show and sale each December. Small works and cards are also available from the AGP Shop.

Sanchez Art Center is located at 1220 Linda Mar Blvd in Pacifica, about a mile east of Highway 1. Following opening night, the galleries are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1–5 pm, and by appointment, through March 26. The opening, talks, and gallery visits free as part of the center’s focus on “Creating Community through Art”. For more information call 650.355.1894 or visit SanchezArtCenter.org.