

Quarry Cove Art Gallery exhibits "Design Innovations"

Reception with the artists on Saturday, June 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pacifica Art Connection is pleased to exhibit the latest work by longtime Pacificans Judy Quitariano and Margaret Welsh. "Design Innovations" is a mosaic of seemingly disparate styles: abstract art, stylized art, and nature-focused watercolor paintings that complement and contrast with one another.

With her striking pastels, acrylics, and sculptures, Quitariano has created vignettes that honor her experience and emotions while living in our current society. Pushing outside of her comfort zone, she drew upon her right brain and her unconscious to guide her artistic expression while processing the days' happenings.

In pastel panels and a ceramic ceremonial tray titled "Transformations", Quitariano illustrates the metamorphosis of frustration to contentment. Disjointed, conflicting shapes in the pastel panels transform to become a unified, harmonious design in the culminating ceramic tray. "Reflections" portrays a soothing meditation, with its subtle layering of colors and its texturing of paint, which create the shimmer and gentle movement of a bamboo-bordered pond at sunset. In contrast, Quitariano's pieces "Rhythm and Flow" and "Spectrum" deliver messages of energy and emerging light, with their dynamic and saturated pigments.

Co-exhibitor and watercolorist Margaret Welsh honors the innovative designs and structures of nature with her paintings, which showcase her expertise developed over 65 years of painting. With "Red Succulent," Welsh creates a luminous dreamscape of leaves painted as though in conversation. Welsh blends impressionism with a touch of realism, to create this window into nature's beauty. In "Harvest Time", Welsh celebrates the grapes of Wine Country with a robust, ripe bunch of deep-purple grapes taking center stage, set against a glowing background of overlapping and blended greens, golds, and purples, suggesting the sun-brightened lush foliage of a summer day, all done with watercolor!

Shifting a bit toward realism, Welsh captures the freshness of a spring day in "Country Spring", a landscape set in a grove of trees with the focal point of a wooden bridge near a lake. In "Purple Iris" and "Birthday Bouquet", Welsh portrays the essential beauty of an individual flower, as well as the endearing appeal of a bouquet of flowers to celebrate special occasions.

"Design Innovations" surprises, delights, and invites us to contemplate and interpret from one's own perspective. Everyone is invited to attend a reception with the artists on Saturday, June 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. "Design Innovations" will be exhibited through Saturday, June 22. Quarry Cove Art Gallery is at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue, off Highway 1 and next to Avani Salon. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Cindy Chan**