

Our New Youth Art Director: Cynthia Armstrong

From an early age, art and science have been intertwined influences for Cynthia. Her work as an

artist and teacher is drawn from the exploration of nature, capturing and expressing the intricacy to be found in the observation of details. Her artistic vision is influenced heavily by the scientific explorations of Leonardo Da Vinci, augmented by drawings and journal notes. Close study of the natural world leads one to ask more and more questions. "What chewed on this leaf?" "What other animals are living in community with the one that I'm drawing?" "What are the stages of development of this plant or animal or event?" "How and in what way

does this plant or that animal affect its environment?"

Cynthia holds Master's degrees from UC Santa Cruz and Stanford University in Science Illustration and Education. She has been a freelance illustrator and artist for over 15 years, and a teacher for the past 10 years.

For the past year, Cynthia has taught with us and she is filled with talent! We look forward to working with her experience and knowledge and appreciate her taking on the task of organizing our youth program.



Cynthia Armstrong at work

Newest Board Member: LAurus Myth

"I joined the board to take initiative in making changes in my local community. What better way than getting involved, especially with something you love- ART! Being the youngest board member, I

was first intimidated by my lack of experience and knowledge, but I really feel like I am coming into my role. I hope to bring a new and inspiring marketing approach that truly communicates the magic that is created and celebrated here at the Art Center. I am currently exploring for the Art Center to create a buzz about what we really do. I hope that through my short video interviews with our artists, people will get inspired by their perspectives, and by what goes on in our classrooms."



LAurus Myth with her artwork

Soda-Wonderful - Soda-Devine

What a year it has been in the soda experience! Starting with a demonstration by Ruthanne Tudball, we're up and running in a new direction with our wonderful soda kiln (inspired by Frank Borovich who we thank every time we fire the kiln)!

We had been struggling getting it to fire evenly in temperature but, with a few tips from Ruth, Travis Adams was quick to respond and by the next firing we were "hot" throughout! This was a motivator and we were "soda-inspired". We have now created slips and glazes that produce amazing results beyond our expectations!

The opening of the soda kiln at this year's Ceram-A-Rama was very exciting with so many people participating. The comments were great! Laurie Hennig

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Unloading soda kiln at Ceram-A-Rama

By Stephanie Triolo

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Our valley is rich with diversity in both landscape and interests. And yet, we don't see the arts as much as we could...and should. The number of artists in the valley is hardly represented by the Art Center alone. We have a vast array of visual artists, a huge variety of talented musicians, and theatrical talent that is well seasoned and comparable to those of metropolitan cities. Yet we see a declining number of open studios in the valley (many going to Santa Cruz for better support and sales); less support for art in schools by the state; venues cramming musicians into small bars and makeshift theaters in shared facilities with empty seats. Isn't it time we come together and nurture the rich diversity of the arts in our valley?

The arts in our schools have been drastically cut and in some cases

eliminated, and yet are necessary for developing a "whole" child. Recent studies verify that children who receive arts education on a regular basis: 1) have higher test scores in math, science, reading. 2) They have better attendance rates. 3) They are better problem solvers. 4) They develop greater self-esteem and self-security. The arts are NOT an elective. We need them for our future. The California Art Council recognizes this need and has given us a grant to support our hugely popular Art After School program. These are classes presented at the 3 elementary schools and the high school in San Lorenzo Valley after school. We provide the art teachers and materials. So great is the need, they are filled with wait lists. This is a small example of the bigger picture.

In many other communities there are art centers with galleries, dance studios, art classes



Young budding artist learning technical drawing techniques during After School Art Program.

and theaters! Theaters that have a backstage with dressing rooms AND a green room with a stage monitor and make-up artists. The artists help build and paint the sets. Musicians have an orchestra pit. Here, we have huge buildings used for storage, school

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An Emerging Clay Program

Dan and Laurie Hennig, have nurtured any opportunity to meet people involved in the art and craft of ceramics. One such group is developing a clay program in San Antonio, Baja California Sur (BCS). Across the street from the old mission, a determined group is carving out space in their Cultural Center to work with clay. Outside of brick making, the town was without a pottery tradition... until recently. Over the last few years, classes offered at the University in nearby La Paz taught the basics of processing and developing local clay bodies, sparking the beginning of pottery making in Baja Sur. Now there are numerous potteries and galleries tucked into the surrounding canyons and pueblos, making the area a fascinating destination. Unfortunately, there are no ceramic materials available for retail in Baja. Donations for San Antonio's developing clay program are welcomed.

A workshop using locally processed clay, along with a tour of the area is a possibility this winter/spring. Interested?.

Email: laribera2004@yahoo.com for more information.



Laurie Hennig encouraging potters of San Antonio

By Laurie Hennig

Gloria Benedetti Seneres – In Memoriam

by Linda Levy

Many artists dream about a Bohemian lifestyle of world travel working with prodigious artists, producing and exhibiting art. Gloria Seneres lived the dream. As a youth, she met artist Ella Jackson, her art teacher at the Girls Commercial High School in Brooklyn. Ella mentored Gloria, encouraging her to continue her art studies. In 1944, she applied for and was accepted into New York's Cooper Union Art School. She majored in Fine Arts and graduated with honors four years later.

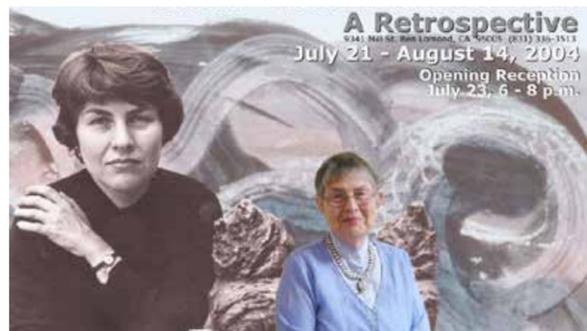
Gloria then started her worldly travels in Mexico to study Mexican History and Spanish, then to Paris, influenced by Cubism, to study at the atelier of French artist Fernand Léger; followed by a migration across

England, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy. Gloria returned to America accepting a position as assistant Art Director to McFadden Publication. In 1950, she met and married John Seneres, who remained a lifetime friend after their divorce. Gloria earned a Bachelor's of Science in Art Education from New York University and was accepted into their MFA Program. Then back to Mexico, having her first of several one-person exhibitions, beginning a tour with her work to Japan, England, France and Italy. After her tour, she moved to Nairobi, Africa with her family where she continued to create and show her art, taught art in a Kenya high school and worked with the African Wildlife Foundation Magazine.

In 1976, Seneres returned to the United States to build a house in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She opened an art gallery, "Seneres on Sixth", in New York's lower eastside that briefly interrupted the building project. Then "came back to my home in the Santa Cruz Mountains satisfied that I had seen a bit of the world."

The Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center was honored to highlight a rich legacy of the art and the life of Gloria Seneres in a 2004 Invitational Exhibition, "Gloria Seneres: A Retrospect."

Gloria passed from our lives on Sunday, November 17th, 2012. Her visionary and inspirational energy will be sorely missed.



"It is said that the candle burns brightest at the end. I thank the Art Center for making this brightness possible." Gloria Seneres

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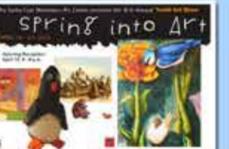
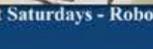
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For artists who want to advertise in this publication, send email to jennifer9@gmail.com

2013 Calendar

MONTH EVENTS YOUTH ADULT EXHIBITIONS RECEPTIONS

MONTH	EVENTS	YOUTH	ADULT	EXHIBITIONS	RECEPTIONS
JAN	 9341 Mill St. Ben Lomond 831.336.3513 www.MountainArtCenter.org Please visit our website for updates/changes	ON-GOING: After School Art Teens - Elementary Art Saturdays Art Camps  Art After School	ON-GOING: Life Drawing Ceramics Painting Drawing Ukulele  Life Drawing & Marathons	 "Resolutions" Jan. 16 - April 6 Take in: Jan. 13, 2012 Reception: Jan 18, 6 - 8 p.m.	
FEB		 Spring Break Art Camp		 "Spring Into Art" - Youth Art April 10 - 27 Take in: April 7, 2 - 5 Reception: April 12, 6 - 8 p.m.	
MAR		 Plein Air @ Camp Joy May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	 Art Saturdays - Robotics	 Painting	
APR		 May Community Day @ New Leaf Felton & Boulder Creek	 Ceramics	 "Imagine" May 1 - July 6 Take in: April 28, 2 - 5 p.m. Reception: May 3, 6 - 8 p.m.	
MAY		 Ukuleles Gone Wild! June 29, July 27 & Aug 31 3 - 6 p.m.	 July Plein Air	 "Simply Red" July 10 - Sept. 28 Take in: July 7, 2 - 5 p.m. Reception: July 12, 6 - 8 p.m.	
JUN		 Summer Art Camps June - July - August	 Drawing	 "It's a Wonderful Life!" October 2 - Dec. 24 Take in: Sept 29, 2 - 5 p.m. Reception: Oct. 4, 6 - 8 p.m.	
JUL		 Ceram-A-Rama Sept 13, 14, 15	 Music: Ukulele - Guitar		
AUG		 Open Studios Art Tour Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20			
SEPT		 Open House - Gift Sale Nov. 30 12 - 6 p.m.			
OCT					
NOV					
DEC					

CLASSES

GALLERY

Make Art a Part of Your Life



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9341 Mill Street
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

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Minds, Hearts, and Hands: The Secret Magic of the Youth Art Exhibit

by Lisa Alexander

For fifteen years, the Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center has included a youth art exhibit in their busy curatorial schedule. The art gallery is filled with professionally displayed art made by kids. When the show opens the effect is breathtaking. Upon entering the gallery, people have a vague sense that something magical has occurred—right here in our neighborhood, in this very building!—and they would be right.

ever they are, they use their imaginations (minds) to do something they love (with their hearts) to bring their creation into the physical world (forming it with their hands) as a piece of artwork.

On the take-in day for the exhibit, they all show up, shy and excited, and leave their precious cargo with us. Artwork from young artists covers tables and lines the walls in a cacophony of color and shape. And then the curators' fun begins. Slowly we move things around, grouping together those that seem to relate to each other by color or movement or style. Then we look for pieces that connect the groups so that everything flows together.



work by Emma Spear

head but, somewhere in the process, they flow through the heart and then out through the hands. Creativity—inspiration, ideas, love, and craft—is true magic. Without it, all we would see is blank paper and canvas, empty walls and barren shelves.



work by Vanessa Black

People feel the magic when they see this show because they are in the presence of an invisible force that shines through every piece of art. This mysterious force—creativity—is the same energy that fills us with life and drives us to wonder, invent, and express. Creative ideas may hang out in one's

The 16th Annual "Spring Into Art" Youth Art Exhibit Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, April 7, 2 - 5 p.m.—Take In (Artists drop off artwork at SCMAC)
- Wednesday, April 10 —Exhibit Opens
- Friday, April 12, 6 - 8 p.m.—Opening Reception
- Sunday, April 28, 2 - 5 p.m.—Artists pick up artwork

United we stand (continued)

campuses that were used for a few years only to sit mostly empty, big parking lots, and we don't have a theater. The high school is ready to renovate their performing art center this year. What can we do to unify and support a greater facility for the arts?

going on. Support is very necessary to keep the arts alive for all of us. Our children need it and so do we. Without support, demand and unity of our community, the arts will go away. We at the Art Center are committed to promoting arts and culture in our community.

bi-annual newsletter and reach out to local publications weekly. If we can tell the community about you and yours, you can do the same for us, targeting the people interested in the arts. Let us join hands and voices in advocating for the arts in our community! Email Jennifer Hennig: 9jennifer9@gmail.com

Promote the arts in every way possible. Know more about what's

Share your concerns; let us know! We have a website, a calendar, a

Soda (continued)

said she had to keep her bowl to look at; Dale Bates (Mr. Raku himself) was impressed; Susanna Arias said she had to do more, in fact, she had a whole kiln load fired later; I said it "was my best piece ever!"; Paula Prekowitz was absolutely pleased with her new glazes she made for soda firing; and Travis Adams, our Master of the Soda Kiln, said "It is a magical, unpredictable atmosphere. The possibilities are limitless. It is experimentation on a regular basis!"

There will be one-day workshops, beginning in January, on Surface Decoration and Glazing for Soda Firing. We hope to be soda firing once a month during the winter so be sure and look for the dates on our website. Remember, all pieces must be made of cone-10 clay and bisque fired. We do have cone-10 glazes for the soda firing at the Art Center, as well as slips for green ware. Come join the "Soda-Experience"

Woof! Woof! The Roof is Done!

Thank you one and all for helping us put a new lid on the Art Center! We will be safe, warm and dry for many years to come. We thank All American Roofing for their wonderful service, giving us a great deal for

all the work that was done. We couldn't have done this without your great support! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!