

ARTS of OJAI

Sponsored by the Artists and Merchants of Ojai

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OSA Tour reception offers artwork auction, raffle

Kate Sexton

OVN contributor

Two fund-raising activities will take place at this year's "Harvest Gathering" reception on Saturday, as part of the 27th annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour, which runs Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On display throughout the day, platters created and decorated by OSA members will be open for the silent auction. Raffle tickets will be on sale for baskets filled with artwork by OSA members and items from Ojai merchants.

"Harvest Gathering" is the theme of the festive cocktail reception. Held after the studios close, the reception is where all of the artists gather to greet visitors and

continue conversations. It has become a premier place to buy one-of-a-kind artwork produced by OSA members. Winners of the silent auction will be announced during the reception along with a drawing for the raffle winners. The reception runs from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., with refreshments for all. The reception is included in the price of the tour ticket, or buy reception-only tickets at the door for \$10.

All proceeds from the raffle and silent auction will benefit the OSA Arts Scholarship Fund. OSA hopes to exceed the cumulative \$100,000 mark this year to provide scholarships for local

young aspiring artists.

For many years now, the second weekend in October has been a frenzy of creative activities throughout the Ojai Valley with the Ojai Art Center on Montgomery Street as its hub. The Ojai Art Center will display an exhibition of works by the Ojai Studio Artists, host the "Harvest Gathering" reception Saturday night and be the starting location where visitors can view a sample of work by each artist participating in the Ojai Studio Artists Tour that weekend.

"We are working hard on the Operation Fill My Art Basket," said Sylvia Raz, OSA member in charge of the raffle this year. "This raffle has been

a sensational success in the past, with raffle ticket sales totaling thousand of dollars, all money going to scholarships for gifted children. This year, we are creating 10 baskets, with the talented volunteer Andi Bloom creating the harvest wrapping."

Raz has been nudging the artists for the best of the best to fill the baskets, which includes local gourmet foods and other goodies. Artists are being very generous in donating their art, both in value and quality. Works to be included are a miniature in bronze by Ted Gall, some ceramic works by Richard Flores, Larry Carnes and Bruce Tomkinson, jewelry by Chris Brennan and Elaine Unzicker, a photograph by Cindy Pitou Burton,



Bird Platter by Linda Taylor

and more. All baskets will be on display Saturday.

"Several years ago, 15 members created one-of-a-kind platters for the silent auction," said Katie Van Horn, reception co-chair with Renate Collins. "This year we are repeating the wonderfully received

platters. OSA member Larry Carnes has worked with 17 OSA artists and fired all of the platters are his studio. Each platter will be on display at the Art Center and people can enter a bid for the silent auction."

For more information: ojaistudioartists.org/.

Sohm, Granata named honorary OSA members

Kate Sexton

OVN contributor

The Ojai Studio Artists are welcoming back three returning artists to their ranks for 2010. And this year the group has established a special honorary member category. All members will be featured on the annual fall OSA Tour to be held Saturday and Sunday.

"We are pleased to have so many returning artists who will be participating on the tour this year," said Patrish Kuebler, membership committee chair. "We added a new category, honorary members, with Donna Granata and Joseph Sohm as the first inductees."

"Both photographers are noted for their work, with Donna in the early stages of her career while Joseph has a wealth of work. We are very proud

of Donna, as she was an OSA scholarship winner while an art student. Joseph has published over 50,000 images in such publications as National Geographic, The New York Times and in Al Gore's Oscar-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth." Artwork from all OSA members will be featured in an exhibition at the Ojai Center for the Arts prior to the tour.

The returning members are: Sharon Butler, painter, works in all mediums but prefers acrylics with which she can obtain a "beaded" three-dimensional effect to her African, American Indian, Japanese and Chinese influenced art; Kent Butler, painter, creates colorful painting of the American west, having won numerous awards with his work in private collections in Europe,

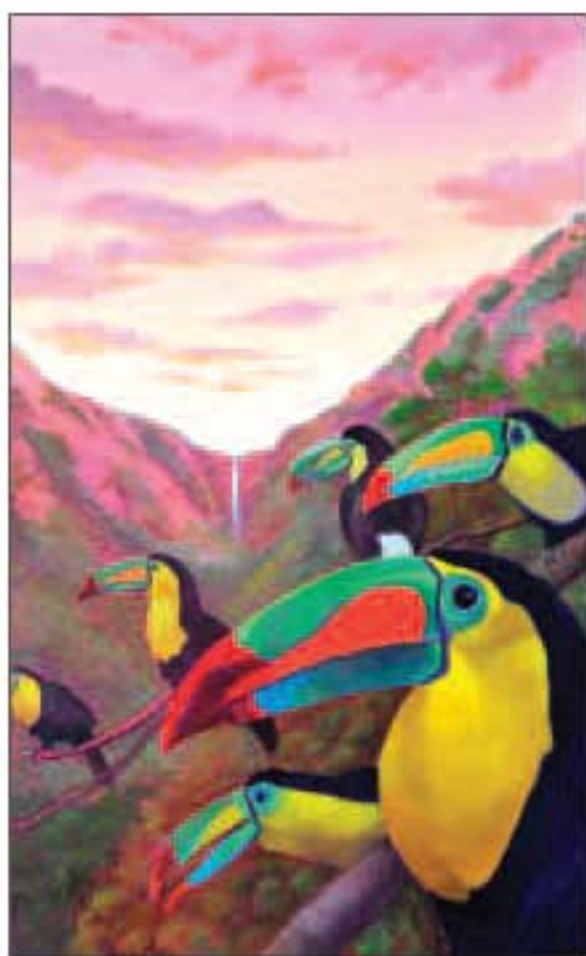
Africa and the United States; and Mick Reinman, painter, explores the complex internal drama of the human spirit to create geo-organic forms to depict the universality of human emotions.

A sample of the artists' work can be found at ojaistudioartists.org/artists.html.

OSA's mission is to encourage interest and

excellence in the arts through organizing the annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour and "Made in Ojai" exhibit, to raise funds for scholarships, to facilitate the exchange of information and promote art education through community outreach.

Ojai Studio Artists is a California 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation focused on education in the visual arts.



'Costa' by Thomas Hardcastle

A solo exhibition of new work by Ojai artist Thomas Hardcastle will be on display through Nov. 15 at Fox Fine Jewelry, 210 E. Main St., Ventura. Hardcastle is primarily known for his paintings of birds and flowers in oil and pastel.

Arts Calendar

• **Oct. 8:** An OSA Art Tour preview will be held at The Oaks at Ojai in the Winner's Circle Room, 122 E. Ojai Ave., today at 7:15 p.m. Ojai Studio Artist Karen Lewis will show slides and talk about the artists who will be exhibiting on this year's annual weekend open studio tour, which raises money for scholarships and art outreach and education in the Ojai Valley. Call 646-5573.

• **Oct. 9-10:** The 27th annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour takes place Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception will be held Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ojai Art Center. Tickets are \$31 each in advance or \$36 each during the tour

weekend. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Call 646-8126 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or fax 646-9762 for ticket assistance. Tickets available online at ojaistudioartists.com.

• **Oct. 9-10:** The annual Art Detour will take place Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring 28 studios, some of them with multiple artists. This tour is free and maps are available at the museum, hotels around the valley and at Studio 201, 214 W. Ojai Ave., which will host a reception for the artists on Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 640-3601 or go to ojaiartdetour.com.

• **Oct. 9-10:** David Dobek Modern Art Studios, 703 N. Ventura St., will host an open

house preview with refreshments in conjunction with the Ojai art tours on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 646-1546.

• **Through Oct. 17:** "Liberty! The Genius of the People," an exhibit of 30 George Stuart Historical Figures® involved in the nation's revolution and founding, is on display through Oct. 17 at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St., Ventura. Call 653-0323.

• **Oct. 26:** "From Crown to Commonwealth," an exhibit of 30 George Stuart Historical Figures® on the British parliament, is on display through Nov. 28 at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St., Ventura. Stuart will give a monologue on "The Stuarts" on Oct. 26 at 1:30 p.m. Call 653-0323.

• **Through Oct. 31:** The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts, 8560 Ojai-Santa Paula Road, will display "Retro-Perspectives: Richard Amend and Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend, Selected Works from the '70s and '80s" through Oct. 31. 646-3381.

• **Nov. 5:** The Ojai Art

Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., will display "Souvenirs," an exhibit of photographs by Jo Anne Avnet, Nov. 5 through Dec. 1. An opening reception for the artist will be held Nov. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 646-0117.

• **Through Nov. 15:** A solo exhibition of new work by Ojai artist Thomas Hardcastle will be on display through Nov. 15 at Fox Fine Jewelry, 210 E. Main St., Ventura. Hardcastle is primarily known for his paintings of birds and flowers in oil and pastel. Call 652-1800.

• **Through Nov. 18:** The City Gallery at City Hall, 401 S. Ventura St., Ojai, will display paintings by Richard Rackus through Nov. 18.

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