



OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS

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## **OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS AWARD 2009 SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Ojai, CA – June 10, 2009.** In these difficult economic times, when public support for arts education is vanishing and many parents are struggling to provide even the basics, the Ojai Studio Artists (OSA) continues to encourage young people to hone their talents. Once again, OSA has awarded cash prizes to promising students to recognize their accomplishments and help them pursue their education.

Chosen for the superior quality of their work by a jury of OSA members, eight Ojai arts students received scholarships at the June 6<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony held at the Ojai Valley Museum. They are Wyatt Amend, Megan Cerminaro, Celeste Evans, Tigran Matevosyan, Sarah Pilcher, Susannah Pilcher, Riley Reasor and Anna Mae Reeser.

Their work is on display, along with that of professional artists who are OSA members, at OSA's Annual Spring Exhibition currently at the Ojai Valley Museum. The exhibition includes outstanding work in many media – from oil and pastel painting to art glass and jewelry – from the 52 artists who are members of the prestigious Ojai Studio Artists.

Visitors will also see varied work from scholarship recipients including unusual stoneware pieces called “Form Blue” and “Form Brown” from Wyatt Amend, Megan Cerminaro’s expressive photo called “Twilight,” Celeste Evans’ intriguing “Lyminal Desert,” an accomplished “Still Life” from Tigran Matevosyan, Sarah Pilcher’s “Untitled” oil on canvas, a surprising work from Susannah Pilcher called “424 Tubes on the Wall,” Riley Reasor’s skilled ink on paper “Untitled 2,” and Anna Mae Reeser’s evocative “The Down Hill Home.”

OSA takes pride in the role that previous scholarship winners have played in the arts and the community at large. “Support for the arts is more important than ever,” says Ruth Farnham, OSA Scholarship Committee, “and the payoff is ongoing. We are pleased to follow the progress of such notable award winners as Walt Dohrn, screenwriter and animator of *Shrek 3*, and Donna Granata, who went on to found the *Focus on the Masters* project.” Walt was winner of the first scholarship in 1993, and Donna won an award in 1996.

Over the years, OSA has awarded nearly \$150,000 in scholarships and donations to qualified art students, artists, and arts organizations in the Ojai Valley. OSA gives scholarships in honor of the following renowned local artists: Horace Bristol, John Farnham, Vivika Heino, Virginia Hoadley, Elaine Rogers, Nancy Rupp, and Beatrice Wood.

The funds for these scholarships come from Tour ticket sales, private donations and proceeds from a silent auction of members' artwork during the annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour. In 2009, the Tour will be held on the weekend of October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the Tour and other OSA activities, please visit <http://www.ojaistudioartists.org/>.

"Made in Ojai VII" will be at the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 West Ojai Ave., through July 26<sup>th</sup>, and is open to the public Thursday and Friday, 1 - 4; Saturday 10 - 4, and Sunday 12 - 4.

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