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Ojai Studio Artists Score Numerous Prizes at the Ventura County Fair

(Ventura, CA – August 31, 2010) Ten members of the Ojai Studio Artists won prizes at the Fine Arts show at this year's Ventura County Fair. Adah Callahan, then serving on the County Fair's board of directors, started this competitive, juried fine arts show forty-one years ago. The Callahan family has continued her love of art and commitment to fostering the fine arts in Ventura County. This year, the Professional Arts exhibition, now supervised by granddaughter Shannon Callahan Patrick and her father, Mickey Callahan, has awarded \$17,600, in cash prizes to Ventura County artists in a variety of fine arts media. They include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, pastels, mixed media, digital arts, watercolors and six other categories.

OSA winning members include Karen Lewis, Linda Taylor and Richard Franklin who swept the hand-pulled print division with first, second and third prize, respectively. These prints were all "pulled" by the artists from Linda Taylors's giant press, fondly named 'Big Bertha', at her Drown St. Spotted Dog Studio, where local artists, experts in other media, explore the techniques and variety of print-making. Linda also won a second prize with one of her figure drawings, in the mixed media division.

Other members of OSA, Fred Whitman, son of Ojai artist Nancy Whitman, won a second prize for his outdoor sculpture of a caryatid figure named "Broke" emerging from sandstone, and, sculptor Duane Dammeyer won fourth prize for his indoor alabaster sculpture. Former OSA member Tom Hardcastle won both first and second prizes in the pastels division, and fourth prize was awarded to OSA artist Patrish Kuebler. Fifth prize and honorable mention awards in the painting division were given to Carlos Grasso and Betty Saunders. Gayel Childress and Karen Lewis were also juried into the painting division of the Professional Arts Competition.

More examples of Ojai Studio Artists' works can be seen at the current summer exhibition Made in Ojai VIII – running through September 19th at the Ojai valley Museum, 130 W. Main St., through September 19th. The artists' studios will be opened to the public on October 8 and 9 for the Annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour. For information visit: Ojaistudioartists.org.

