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Kathleen Kaiser, OSA Publicist  
805-524-6970 – Kathleen@KathleenKaiser.com

**“MADE IN OJAI VIII” CELEBRATES OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND CURATED EXHIBITION OF MEMBERS’ NEW WORK**

*Ojai Studio Artists Exhibition to run July 29 through September 19 at the Ojai Valley Museum*

(Ojai, CA – July 23, 2010) The 8th annual exhibition, “Made In Ojai” opens July 29 at the Ojai Valley Museum with an opening reception on Saturday, July 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. This year each piece on exhibit is a new work of art by the members of the Ojai Studio Artists (OSA), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage interest and excellence in the arts through organizing the annual Ojai Studio Tour and Made in Ojai exhibit; to raise funds for scholarships; to facilitate the exchange of information and promote art education through community outreach. Proceeds from the sale of artwork will benefit the museum, which is a great local resource that continues to promote art, history and culture in the Ojai Valley.

The Ojai Valley Museum’s new director, Michele Ellis Pracy, personally selected the artwork to be exhibited. “As the curator of the exhibition,” stated Pracy, “ I made visits to each participating artist and selecting one or two works that are new pieces, not seen in Ojai before, and are exceptional and indicative of their oeuvre. This is a selling exhibition...all works are available for purchase; all are priced at fair market value and are of small to medium scale.”

“One positive feature of OSA is its dedication to providing the community with grants, donations, arts education and student scholarships,” states Richard Amend, OSA Exhibition Chair. “I highly endorse this program, having, in my time, received full scholarships, for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. An arts education would not have been possible for me without this type of extraordinary assistance. Giving back to future generations is important and OSA as a group, devotes its work to those efforts.”

Many of the scholarships are named in honor of prestigious past members including the Beatrice Wood, Otto and Vivika Heino, John Farnham, Nancy Rupp and others.

An opening reception will host the presentation of the Student Scholarship Awards on Saturday, July 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. The ceremony will honor the 2010 winners of student scholarships, given by OSA to outstanding Ojai Valley student artists. The winning piece of artwork from 2010 winners will be on display during the exhibition. To date, OSA has given more than \$100,000 in scholarships. These awards are funded through auctions and ticket sales from OSA’s annual fall Studio Tour, held this year Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10. Artwork by the scholarship winners will also be included in the exhibition.

**“MADE IN OJAI VIII” FACTS:**

Exhibition: July 29 to September 19, 2010

The museum is open Thursday & Friday 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.

There is a \$3 fee.

Reception July 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. - The reception is free to the public.

The Museum is located at 130 W Ojai Ave, Ojai, CA 93023, 805-640-1390.