



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

New Works to Dominate the 27th Ojai Studio Artists Tour October 9 & 10

The 27th Annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour will feature many new works from over fifty of the group's members for the public to view and purchase at the many distinctive studios located throughout the Ojai Valley. The tour takes place each year over the second weekend of October 9 & 10. The Harvest Reception will be held on Saturday night from 6 to 8 PM, where visitors and artists mingle together while viewing and bidding on raffle and silent auction art objects.

The best place for visitors to start is at the Ojai Art Center on South Montgomery St. There is one sample of art-work by all artists is on view and docents can help visitors plan out their tour on maps supplied by OSA as this is a self-guided tour. Following is a sample of new artworks by five OSA members that will be featured on the tour.

James Menzel-Joseph

James Menzel-Joseph will have copies of his newest book, "Art & Survival in the Twenty-first Century" available in his studio along with many of his latest paintings. This lavishly illustrated and timely book shows what is possible when the human spirit meets the ultimate challenge of overcoming the darkest of human experiences. He offers his story of art and survival from an impoverished, art-impassioned youth to his experience as a combat Marine in the Korean War, to a prolific award-winning artist, master art teacher, health educator, activist and philosopher.

While the artwork stands as testimony to his immense talent, Menzel-Joseph offers powerful political and social commentary as well as profound teachings for the "artist", which – he contends– is every human being's potential. "The 'time-bending' creative experience has the power to transform who we are and, by extension, our world," says Menzel-Joseph. "If we cannot see our lives as potentially transformative art forms, we will continue to repeat the destructive patterns that have marked the human experience for millennia - destroying ourselves and the environment that sustains us. The opportunity before us is to see our lives as precious gifts to be molded and shaped by unfettered inquiry- to see that we are all manifestations of an intelligent and creative universe with all that implies- This is one fact that those lusting after power and control don't want us to get.



More on next page



Cindy Pitou-Burton

In her studio nestled in Ojai's east valley, photographer Cindy Pitou-Burton will be featuring many photos from her recent trips to Viet Nam and Cambodia on the Tour. Internationally recognized with photos in many magazines, Burton worked as a photographer for the New York Times before moving to Ojai eighteen years ago. She has large format archival printers in her studio that adds to her control of her images. "Gone is the dark room filled with chemicals. Photoshop replaces burning and dodging in the darkroom, while being able to print on surfaces from watercolor to rice papers adds to my creative choices. Together they are my new darkroom," said Burton.

Cindy is also known for her floral photography and she is experimenting with several new styles including a recent image that is on display at the Ojai Museum that looks like a painting of a boat in the water, but is actually an untouched photo. Her studio will feature not only the work from her trips but also her many floral photographs, including light box images reminiscent of Georgia O'Keefe.



Julia Pfeifer

Julia Pfeifer's work was featured in the most recent edition of Cowboys and Indians Magazine showing her custom beaded cowboy boots. She is now collaborating with a local Ojai moccasin maker who specializes in the boot style moccasins. Visitors to her studio during the tour should expect to see outstanding beaded boot moccasins.

Julia is presently working on a series of pictorial beaded pieces some of which are buckles, concho belts and pendants. The pictorial images are created with the smallest beads in the world. They stopped making these 20-24 ott seed beads in the 1920's of which Julia has a large collection. The wide range of color and intricacy allows for amazing detail.

Joseph Sohm

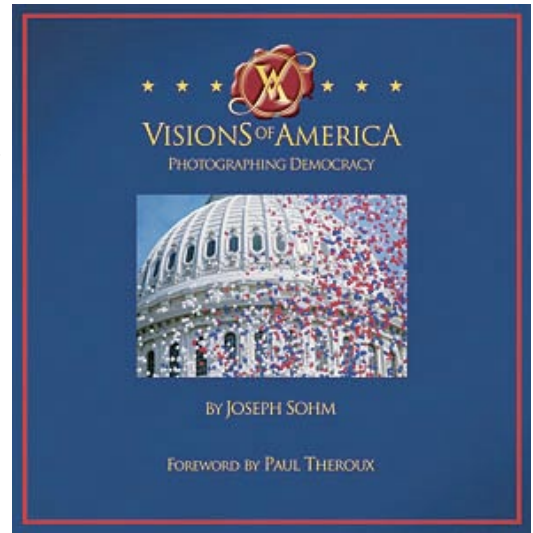
A recent new member of OSA, Joseph Sohm is a distinguished photographer whose work has graced the covers of leading international publications, including My images have been published internationally more than 50,000 times in National Geographic, NY & LA Times, Wall Street Journal, London Times, CNN, NBC, etc. For his first Studio Tour, he will have his recent award winning tabletop book, "Visions of America - Photographing Democracy."

More on next page



“Visions of America” recently won a GOLD and SILVER medal for “best tabletop book”. It is based upon Sohm’s 30-year journey to capture all 50 states and in doing so, “Photograph Democracy.” There is a companion DVD that features Clint Eastwood narrating his journey to photograph the 50 States.

Recently, 100 copies of the books were bought by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s State Department for the USA Pavilion in Shanghai at the 2010 World Expo. “Visions of America” features 21 essays by Sohm, 1300 images from all 50 states, weighs 7 pounds, is 1 foot square and retails for \$75. He will be signing copies along with DVD’s featuring Clint Eastwood during the Tour.



Sylvia Raz

As usual, women’s and creature’s fates occupy Sylvia Raz’ mind and creative output. This year, at the OSA’s Ojai Art Center exhibit, she will show a work dedicated to the memory of the Alisso Street Bear.

“When I look at it,” say Sylvia, “my eyes want to cry. So I’m going to title it: Llorad, mis ojos, cry my eyes, pleurez, mes yeux. I want to call him in all the languages in which my eyes can cry.” Women’s legs are occupying central stage with the work on display at her studio during this year’s tour. “My water aerobics instructor teaches us an exercise called Kazaksky, where we jump in the water like Kazaks did, but she pronounces it Ganatsky, which to me sounds like a drink that makes you open your legs! So here we go, a drink to women’s legs!

27th Annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour

October 9 & 10, 2010

10 AM to 5 PM

Self-guided tour throughout the Ojai Valley

Reception with the artists Saturday evening, 6 to 8 PM

Ojai Art Center, Montgomery St.