



Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association

Artifacts

July 2022

Solano Town Center Gallery

'The Return of Blue'

Show Dates:

May 25 thru July 9

Featured Artist: Diana Bennett

Intake: Sunday, May 21, 11am - 6pm

Artwork Pickup: Sun, July 10, 11am - 6pm

Next Show

'The Wildlife'

**Show Dates: July 13 thru
September 10**

Featured Artist: Cherol Ockrassa

Intake: Sun, July 10, 11am - 6pm

Artwork Pickup: Sun, Sept 11, 11am - 6pm

Village 360 Gallery

4949 Suisun Valley Road

Hours: Fri, 2:30-7pm; Sat, 11am-4pm &

Sun, 11am-4pm

Intake/Artwork Pickup June 4, 9 to 11am

(Located inside the new Village 360)

24th Annual Art on the Vine

For those of you that do not know I was not able to participate in this year's Art on the Vine. I would like to thank Cherol Ockrassa for taking over for me by running the event. It is my understanding that the event went very well, and she did a great job. Cherol had a great support team this year with help from her husband Don, Doug Cooper, Ken Chew, Chris Naughton, Jim Poff, JoRené Danel & her husband Kevin, and Mike Foldhazi.

(Dennis Ariza)

Things To Do/People to See

The Crush

Saturday, September 24, 10am-5pm

Registration is now available at

[FSVAA Art Festivals | fsvaa \(fvaa-arts.org\)](https://fsvaa.org/art-festivals)

#IARTSUISUN

Saturday, September 17, at the Joseph Nelson Center. Artist wanted for the event.

Free 10'x10' booth.

Contact: IARTSUISUN@gmail.com

Donated Art Sales

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to help move, setup the display of artwork, and to those that sat during the days of the sale. I would also like to thank those that purchased some of the artwork. We were able to sell all the artwork except 4 pieces and raise \$2,409.53. This money will be used for events like our High School Student Art Show, Assist-a-Grad, and the Juried Art Show.

Assist-A-Grad

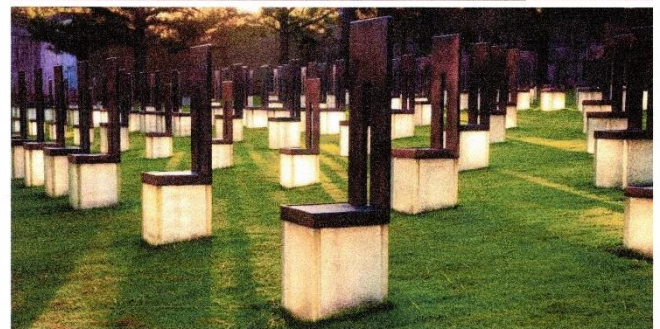
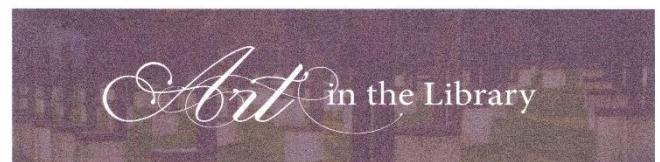


The FSVAA awarded two \$300 scholarships for the 2022 Assist-A-Grad Scholarship Foundation.

The two scholarship recipients were: Cindy Botello (Armijo) and Emily Garcia-Sanchez (Armijo).

Board Members, Janet Barnes and Laura Klein reviewed five applications and each of them chose the same two applicants on behalf of FSVAA. Janet and Laura agreed their applications were very impressive.

Congratulations!



PHILIP VENABLE

RECEPTION:
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 12
6:15 TO 7:30 P.M.

NAPO COUNTY LIBRARY
www.napalibrary.org
580 Columbia Street | Napa, CA 94559
707-253-4255

A fine arts photographer from Vacaville, Philip Venable specializes in landscape photography. He also enjoys creating abstract images. He is a member of the Napa Valley Photographic Society. His work was previously displayed at the Napa County Library as part of a group exhibition with Napa Valley Photographic Society. He has also displayed his work in galleries across California.

Registration is required. Register at
<https://philipvenable.eventbrite.com>

Margo Scarpulla was accepted into the 50/50 Show at the Sanchez Art Center in the Pacifica Center for the Arts, 1220-B Linda Mar Boulevard, Pacifica, CA 94044

She was chosen to make 50 small pieces (no bigger than 6x6 inches) in 50 days. Day one is June 27. She will be working in clay, glass, and encaustic media along with 80+ artists that will also be showing their artwork.

FSVAA on Social Media



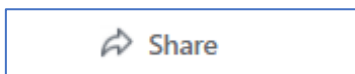
Be sure to follow and like FSVAA on Social Media, Facebook and Instagram:

 <https://www.facebook.com/fairfieldvisualarts>

 <https://www.facebook.com/FSVAAGallery>

 <https://www.instagram.com/fsvaa/>

 https://www.instagram.com/fsvaa_the_crush/



Help us get the word out on FSVAA Events posted on our Facebook Page by clicking the 'share' button on events to share them onto your FB page. Thank You!



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From Field to Canvas

YoloArts' Art and Ag Project
By Rebecca Gross



Yolo Countryside, an oil on canvas by Patris Miller, created as part of the Art and Ag project. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Frank Muller has agriculture in his blood. He was raised on a farm, and now runs Muller Ranch in Yolo County, California, northwest of Sacramento, with his two brothers, son, and nephew. The ranch boasts several thousand acres of walnut groves, sunflowers, vineyards, tomato fields, almond trees, and pepper plants. But despite his close ties with the landscape and all it produces, he said the inherent beauty of his farmland once escaped him. "I've been to the finest art galleries all over the world," he noted, "but when you look at these Impressionist paintings of Paris and the countryside, I never thought that our farms in our area could look like that."

Through his involvement with [Art and Ag](#), a project of NEA grantee YoloArts, his line of sight has shifted. For the past decade, Art and Ag has invited farmers to open their land to local artists, providing unique opportunities to capture private landscapes that would otherwise remain inaccessible and unseen. In turn, money raised through art sales goes toward preserving the farmland of Yolo County,

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which boasts 255,000 acres of what is considered to be prime farmland.

The interaction has proven to be mutually beneficial. “From a farmer’s standpoint, we’re able to honor what they’re doing, help them tell their story about the value of the land,” said Danielle Whitmore, executive director of YoloArts. Meanwhile, artists gain a new creative outlet and a greater sense of where they live.

For artist Rebecca Ryland, “it’s almost like a religious experience to get outside and get up in the hills.” She began to participate in Art and Ag after moving from Montreal and noted that the program became an ideal way to form a connection with the cultural community, the land, and the people who worked it. “I think a lot of landscape painters have respect for or an interest in agriculture as subject matter,” she said. “But I think now almost all of the artists know a lot more about the people and about what they do, and that might change their art.”

As it turns out, this change in perspective is infectious. By sharing their artwork with the subject matter’s proprietors, artists have a rare opportunity to reach a uniquely pertinent audience.

“I might walk by and say, ‘I’ve got to get rid of that pile of junk,’” said Muller, who now serves as a liaison between artists and farmers for Art and Ag. “And [artists] paint it and turn it into something that is a work of art rather than a mess. They have a different way of looking at things, and it’s helped me look at my farm differently than I normally have.”

The program began in 2004 when Annie Main, owner of the organic Good Humus Farm, was raising funds to turn her farm into a conservation easement, meaning her land would be preserved as farmland for perpetuity and protected from developers. As part of her



*Rick Plocher, owner of Cache Acres Dairy, with his sculpture.
Photo by Janice Purnell*

fundraising efforts, she invited local artists to her farm for a morning of painting, with the understanding that the artwork created that day would be auctioned off at a special dinner under the apricot trees. Over a champagne lunch Main had prepared for the artists as a thank you, the group realized that this could be the start of something much larger.

Main began to organize planning meetings, which she said were initially difficult as artists and farmers sought to find common ground. But eventually, it felt like a “no-brainer,” and the relationships formed between the artistic and agricultural worlds proved strong enough to carry the program forward. “Those collaborative ties—that’s what makes community community,” said Main. “Ideas are easy, but it does take the community to make it go.”

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Main informally ran the program herself before handing management over to YoloArts, where it would enjoy new opportunities for growth and funding. Today, Art and Ag maintains much of what Main had first envisioned. Every month, 30 or so artists visit a selected farm in Yolo County; in total, an estimated 300 artists and 70 farms have participated in the



Artist Carol Stone at Longview Ranch in Winters, California. Photo by Janice Purnell



Misty Hills by Annie Main, taken at Capay Valley. Photo courtesy of the artist.

program to date. Typically, the proprietor introduces artists to his or her land and agricultural philosophy before letting them roam and create. Throughout the day, artists have an opportunity to learn about the

growing process, while farmers are able to experience the artistic process firsthand. Muller said it can be an eye-opening experience for both.

“In one case, the farmer spent 15 minutes telling [artists] what they couldn't do,” remembered Muller. “Ten minutes later he was opening up gates and had his arm around artists walking them through areas that he told them were off-limits. It brings out something in farmers. When they see that someone's appreciating their farm or their ranch, it clicks a switch in them. It's really amazing, the whole process.”

Main's original mission for land preservation has also remained intact. Every November, work created during, or inspired by, these farm visits is auctioned at Art Farm, an annual celebration hosted by YoloArts that brings together artists, farmers, community members, and local food and wine vendors. This year, the event featured work from 65 regional artists and snacks from nearly two dozen local farms and vineyards, providing valuable exposure for both groups.

Part of the \$35,000 raised will go to the Yolo Land Trust, which has preserved 11,000 acres of farmland through easements since it was founded in 1988. Yolo Land Trust is a fitting beneficiary, said Whitmore, as art can also be a vehicle for preservation.

“Part of the benefit of this program is that we have this historical, visual retrospective of our county,” said Whitmore. Referencing the drought that has recently plagued California, she said, “These last couple of years will be ones when the visual images will be different. They'll be brown. I think it's that historical piece that is visually really impactful.”

Last spring, with funding from the California Arts Council, YoloArts launched a new spin-off

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of Art and Ag called Artful Plate. During Artful Plate's three-week period, participating restaurants served special, locally sourced meals inspired by handmade artists' plates, which were in turn inspired by Yolo County's agricultural landscape.

With this new program, which will return this spring, "Not only are we talking about farms, but we're talking about what the farmers are creating—the produce," said Whitmore. "So, we've taken it to the next level of creativity—the culinary side—while using the produce that the farmers are preparing."

The organization has also helped bring culinary creativity and its associated health benefits to the younger set. As part of the Yolo County Farm to School movement, YoloArts collaborated with the county's agricultural department to design a nutrition guide for school cafeterias, which included recipes using local produce, as well as artwork from Art and Ag participants.



Trapping the Sunrise by Alan Fishleder, taken at Mezger Zinnia Patch in Woodland, California, as part of the YoloArts' Art and Ag project. Photo courtesy of the artist.

"There are so many connections," said Janice Purnell, manager of the Art and Ag project for YoloArts, as she spoke about the relationship between art and agriculture. "You wouldn't think there'd be but there are a million connections."

Perhaps this isn't surprising given that agriculture, like art, is itself an act of creation. At its essence, it is the process of taking raw soil and transforming it into orchards, plant beds, gardens, and food. It requires an intimate knowledge of medium, tools, and technique to achieve the ideal tomato, avocado, or wine grape—each of which can be a multisensory masterpiece in its own right.

It's a concept that rings true with Frank Muller. "I tease my artist friends, 'We do the same thing. We just have a bigger canvas.'"



This 8" x 10" framed original painting of Zelensky by Mike Miller is available to the first person who can show proof of a donation to a Ukrainian charity of at least \$250.00.

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