

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

PAINTINGS OF SANTA YSABEL PRESERVE AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, June 18 through July 31, 2016 will be *Close to Home*:

Paintings of Santa Ysabel Preserve, a one person exhibit featuring the work of San Diego landscape painter Joan Boyer. On display will be more than 25 paintings of Boyer's, primarily oil with some additional watercolor, scenes of the preserve and the Santa Ysabel Valley along with a few other highly paintable areas in California. Opening Reception for the exhibit is Saturday, June 18, 4 - 8 pm. Admission is free. The public is invited.

The word serenity comes to mind when looking at the paintings of Joan Boyer. In this show she has turned her attention to the Santa Ysabel Wilderness Preserves near Julian and Santa Ysabel. Many of the pieces capture the late rains of last year that resulted in bright green pastures. Combined with the oranges and golds of the sycamore leaves and the blue-green pines on Volcan Mountain, her palette is vibrant. These lands are refuge for both animals and humans. But always, from the cows munching, the hawks above, or the procession of wild turkeys, humans are the minority in this big landscape.

Close to Home is Joan Boyer's seventh one person show at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery.

The paintings in the exhibit are mainly studio works with a few plein air paintings included. Boyer says that many of these pieces are what she calls "Sunday drive paintings": country roads, large trees casting flickering shadow patterns, and a feeling of serenity yet exploration. These pieces reflect the artist's attraction to that timeless feeling of the

California landscape, with oaks dotting the rolling hills. Many of the paintings in the exhibit celebrate the end of the day, that time when colors change and the birds find a place to roost. Boyer says "The land tells its best stories to a painter at this time."

Boyer is known for pioneering the use of GPS readings to document and preserve scenic painting locations for herself. She writes this GPS reference on the back of many of her paintings. Boyer began using the GPS as the result of an interest in finding the same places to paint as the early California Impressionists, painters who painted en plein air in California during the first part of the last century. A GPS reading, Boyer realized, could also make things easier for future generations of painters and might be a way to emphasize that beauty to the artist's eye, beauty worthy of being painted, exists here. She is the subject of an article on her use of the GPS in painting in a 2008 issue of the Christian Science Monitor.

Joan Boyer spends a good deal of time hiking and painting in the Santa Ysabel area. She holds an M.A. in Art History from the University of California and, as well as being a professional painter, has taught art in high school and adult education classes. In addition to the United States, she has lived in Mexico and American Samoa. Joan Boyer lives in San Diego and paints in her studio there.

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78 at Highway 79 in Santa Ysabel, seven miles below Julian. Admission to the gallery is free. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11AM - 5 PM, and by appointment. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.