

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

30352 Highway 78 . P.O. Box 480 . Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 . 760-765-1676

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ANNIE ROWLEY

760-765-1676

SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

PAINTER JOAN BOYER'S 'TREE DREAMS' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, April 5th through May 18th, 2014, will be *Tree Dreams*, a one person exhibit showing the work of San Diego landscape painter Joan Boyer. *Tree Dreams* will feature more than 25 new oil paintings, watercolors, and pencil drawings of Boyer's, scenes of the Santa Ysabel Valley, the San Diego County mountains, and other picturesque areas in California. In addition, more than a dozen personally reflective pieces, small watercolor abstracts, will also be on display. Reception for the Artist will be Saturday, April 5th, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Tree Dreams is Joan Boyer's eighth show at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery. The paintings in the exhibit are primarily studio works. 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 timeless California landscapes, with oaks dotting the rolling hills. Many of the paintings in *Tree Dreams* feature the greens and golds that celebrate the end of the day, that time when the birds find a place to roost. Boyer says "The land tells its best stories to a painter at this time of day."

These end of the day pieces, what the Italians call 'the golden hour', are an earmark of Boyer's work. She calls these "long shadows paintings", paintings that capture the late

afternoon light, that time of day when the trees cast long shadows on the ground, making abstract shapes. She enjoys it when a painting's composition takes on abstract qualities. She says: I like it when the mind is coaxed back and forth from literal landscape to an abstract. Boyer particularly likes to paint the long shadows of the Santa Ysabel Valley and explains: "I want to portray the land without reference to any decade. Fortunately the Santa Ysabel Valley has changed little in the 20 years that I have been painting here."

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 the San Diego County mountain and backcountry areas, painting plein air oils and small watercolors, some destined to serve as studies for larger studio oil paintings. She has a B.A. and 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. She has lived in Mexico and American Samoa. Joan Boyer lives and paints in her studio in San Diego.

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. The gallery is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.