

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

JOE GARCIA'S 'ROCKIN' ROBIN - MORE SMALL BIRDS' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, June 28 through August 3, 2014, will be the exhibit *Rockin Robin - More Small Birds*, a one-person show featuring the art of internationally recognized San Diego County wildlife painter Joe Garcia. *Rockin' Robin* is a Joe Garcia small bird painting exhibition that is returning to Santa Ysabel Art Gallery by popular demand. On display will be new Garcia watercolor and oil paintings of small birds, primarily birds local to San Diego County, with a particular focus on birds of Julian's mountain habitat, where Garcia lives and has his studio. There will be a selection of paintings of larger birds as well in the exhibit. Opening Reception for Joe Garcia's *Rockin' Robin - More Small Birds* will be Saturday, June 28, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

A native Californian, Joe Garcia grew up on a small ranch near Escondido, California where he developed an exceptional awareness of wildlife and habitat. He studied illustration at Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and worked as a graphic illustrator before deciding in 1983 to make fine art his primary focus. With this change of focus to fine art, Garcia took a step that would later turn out to be key to his career as a wildlife artist. He built an aviary for various types of quail with the intent of drawing, painting and photographing them. In the quail habitat

Garcia kept Gambel's Quail, California Quail and Bob Whites. He would go into the aviary and sit with the birds, eventually learning to draw and paint each quail type accurately and with feeling. The mountain Quail, being elusive, needed to be studied by Garcia in the wild with a telephoto lens. Garcia's fame as a painter of birds grew, and was spread in large part due to his quail studies and to the early paintings he did of the quail in his aviary.

Garcia's work has appeared in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's *Birds in Art* exhibition in Wausau, Wisconsin and he is in the permanent collection of the Bennington Center for the Arts in Vermont. He exhibits annually in major wildlife art festivals throughout the country and in 2010 he was judge of the Federal Duck Stamp Competition. He has been demonstration artist for the the PBS television series 'The Artist's Workshop'. Joe Garcia is also equally known for his landscape paintings and for the watercolor workshops that he teaches in the United States and overseas.

Joe Garcia is the author of *The Watercolor Bible* and *Mastering the Watercolor Wash*, now art book classics, both published by North Light Books. *Secrets of Watercolor*, his new North Light book, was released at the end of 2012. He has been featured in numerous art books and magazines and has written a major article for the publication *Watercolor Magic*. An article on this exhibition, *Rockin' Robin - More Small Birds*, is a feature in the June 2014 issue of the magazine *Western Art Collector*.

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, 11 AM - 5 PM, and by appointment. The gallery is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.