

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

PAT KELLY PAINTING EXHIBIT 'SOLSTICE-SOLACE' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, November 23 through December 29, 2013, will be *Solstice-Solace*, a one person show featuring new paintings by Ramona artist Pat Kelly. On display will be Kelly's contemporary still life, cloudscape, and landscape paintings. Opening Reception for *Solstice-Solace* will be Saturday, November 23, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

In the past eight years Pat Kelly's work at the easel has taken her in the direction of still life painting. Previously Kelly was best known for painting plein air landscapes. Still life painting is another form of plein air painting, or direct painting, usually done indoors with a subject that is does not move or vary. Kelly calls her method of painting "classical method - modern mind" and enjoys working on a piece in a slow, thoughtful manner, using a deliberate process. She says: "The tradition of painting and the craftsmanship of being a painter are important to me. To be done well, still life painting requires tremendous technical skill, yet it can also be very intellectual. This enables a dialogue about life and art that invites us to contemplate - to go deeper".

A visit by Pat Kelly a few years ago to the traditional English rose garden at Pasadena's Huntington Library moved and inspired her to try her hand at growing the famous and beautiful

David Austin English roses. She grew roses and she painted them. The end result of cultivating the extra petal Austin roses were the contemporary rose paintings that she has been working on for the past several years. The idea that an artist could enter the realm of a rose completely through painting has a large appeal to Kelly, a kind of 'artist achieves the perfect painting of a rose' idea.

There is a strong quality of light to the paintings in this exhibit. The show takes its name from that time of year when days are shorter and darker and it is the instinct of the collective psyche to surround ourselves with visions of light. *Solstice-Solace* is about the kind of energy that we seek at this time of year to sustain us.

Along with paintings of small bird's nests, cloudscares and landscapes, pears, spoons and smaller flower paintings, there will be three very large and spectacular rose paintings on display at *Solstice-Solace*, contemporary paintings of single roses bisected by geometric lines. Kelly calls these enticing and sensual pieces Rose/Arc paintings and points out that they have a circular spiraling energy that is echoed by other works in the show. She says that this circular feel is another distinctive attribute to the group of paintings in the exhibit and has the effect of making the viewer feel that "you are a bee right in the middle of the painting, all things being designed to enclose and protect what is in the center".

Pat Kelly currently teaches direct painting at the Athenaeum School of the Arts and privately. She holds a B.A. in visual art from UC San Diego, has been the subject of a major article in *American Artist* magazine. Kelly lives and has her studio in Ramona, in the San Diego County backcountry.

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.