

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY SHOWCASES PAINTER KEN ROBERTS

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, February 15 through March 30, 2014, will be a one person exhibit featuring new work by San Diego landscape painter Ken Roberts. The show will feature the artist's recent plein air and studio landscape paintings, both large and small. Opening Reception for the Ken Roberts exhibit will be Saturday, February 15, 4-8 PM. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Ken Roberts is a native of San Diego who as a young creative person haunted San Diego art spots, his favorites being Orr's Art Gallery and the venues in Balboa Park. Love of art made itself known to Roberts early on. He remembers buying paintings on layaway while still in his teens at the San Diego Art Institute in the park. Painting came to him in the 1980's when his mother gave him her old paint box. This gift led to Roberts taking painting lessons with the then well known painting teacher Floyd Chandler. Roberts knew early on in his studies with Chandler that he would be a painter, and he had acquired an affinity for the early California landscape painters on his visits to Orr's Gallery. This, combined with his great love of the outdoors, aimed him in the direction of painting the landscape.

Robert's painting site choices usually have grand vistas with interesting foregrounds, or are intimate little clearings like the ones he has been finding in the Descanso area lately, a current favorite painting spot where his old white painting van can be spotted parked on the shoulder of the road. Roberts likes to paint the simple things in the backcountry: rolling hills, mountains, water, stands of trees, small rural buildings. He is fond of painting large and a departure for him in this Santa Ysabel Art Gallery exhibit will be the addition of some really small format paintings that he has been doing lately. These smaller pieces, with an emphasis on scenes of the desert and mountains in the evening, elemental shapes, loose brushwork, and simple light and shade are, according to Roberts, becoming a truly enjoyable painting practice.

Ken Roberts is part of a core group of landscape painters who exhibit regularly at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery and plein air paint in the vicinity of Julian, Santa Ysabel, Palomar, and Cuyamaca. He is an Artist Member of the California Art Club. Current for him is the fact that his children are all now out of the nest and on their own, opening up more time for him to go exploring - and painting what he finds.

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.