

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

MARGARET LARLHAM EXHIBITS PAINTINGS AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, August 30 through October 5, 2014 will be *Presence*, a one-person show featuring the work of San Diego painter Margaret Larlham. On exhibit will be Larlham's plein air and studio landscapes in both pastel and oil, landscapes reflecting the presence of things seen and unseen. The subject matter of the paintings for this Santa Ysabel Art Gallery exhibit are rural scenes from California, especially San Diego County, and places from her travels abroad including her native South Africa. Opening Reception for Margaret Larlham's *Presence* is Saturday, August 30, 4-8 pm. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Margaret Larlham has been exhibiting her paintings in San Diego since the early 1990's. Larlham's creative life has been broad. She has been active not only in the visual arts her entire adult life, but also in dance, storytelling and theatre. She is currently finishing up her position as a tenured member of the faculty in the School of Theatre, Television and Film at San Diego State University where her focus has been devising and directing plays with SDSU students for youth, both for touring schools and for the theatre. Originally from Durban, South Africa, Larlham came to this country in the 1980's when her husband joined the staff of the drama department at SDSU. She has also been an artist in residence with the San Diego

Unified School District, functioning in the role of resident storyteller. In the near future, as Larlham retires from San Diego State University and moves forward, it is her intention to paint full time and to travel with painting in mind.

Here are some of Margaret Larlham's thoughts on painting the landscape: "I am interested in investigating more deeply the places familiar to me and also sharpening my responsiveness to the special character of new places I encounter along the way. I paint until I find a 'way in' to the quality, mood or special presence of this reconstructed image space. In regard to old places, the paintings are often begun as a kind of pilgrimage to remembered landscapes. Several larger studio paintings explore the more intangible aspects of place. The changing light, emotion, mood or sensed presence of the landscapes that I have seen many times and which now inhabit me. There are some landscapes in this exhibition that hold special significance for me."

"The plein air and studio landscape paintings in this show reflect the places I have travelled through in the last year. Most views are of California, but examples from England, Sweden, and South Africa are included. To go out into nature to paint is important to me. If I don't go out to paint every day, wherever I am, I get a bit cranky with myself – so I try to avoid that for everyone's peace of mind!"

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.