

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

JOE GARCIA TO EXHIBIT PAINTINGS OF BIRDS AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, May 25 through July 7, 2013 will be the exhibit *The Smallest Bird Sings the Sweetest Song - Part Two*, a one-person show featuring the art of nationally recognized San Diego County wildlife painter Joe Garcia. This is an exhibit that is back by popular demand. The original *Smallest Bird Sings the Sweetest Song* was a 2011 show at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery. It was very successful, leaving many viewers wanting more. On exhibit will be all new Garcia watercolor and oil paintings of birds, both small and large. In addition there will be a small selection of the artist's landscape paintings on display. Opening Reception for *The Smallest Bird Sings the Sweetest Song - Part Two* is Saturday, May 25, 4-8 pm. Admission is free. The public is invited.

A native Californian, Joe Garcia grew up on a small ranch near Escondido, where he developed an 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. Around that time Garcia took a step that would later turn out to be key to a career as a wildlife artist. He built an aviary for various types of quail with the intent of

drawing, painting and photographing them. Garcia's fame as a painter of birds grew, and was spread in a large part due to his quail studies and the early paintings of the quail in his aviary. In addition to his wildlife art Garcia is also known for his landscape paintings, both plein air and studio, and for the watercolor workshops that he has taught throughout the United States and in Italy, France, Greece and New Zealand.

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. Garcia exhibits annually in major wildlife festivals throughout the country. He has been a demonstration artist for the PBS series "The Artist's Workshop", has been featured in numerous art books and magazines, and has written a major article for the publication *Watercolor Magic*. He 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.

Traveling to paint and photograph painting reference has become an enjoyable and adventurous way to work for Garcia. In addition to teaching workshops in the United States, he has for the past several years taught plein air landscape workshops in France, Greece, Italy and New Zealand. He will be teaching this year in Washington and Alaska and a trip to New York City is planned for inspiration and to view art in the near future. Joe Garcia lives and has his studio in Julian where there is an abundance of wildlife to paint.

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.