

,Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

30352 Highway 78 . P.O. Box 480 . Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 . 760-765-1676

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ANNIE ROWLEY

760-765-1676

SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

CATHERINE GRAWIN, INSIDE-OUT IS NEW SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, April 6 through May 19, 2013, will be *Catherine Grawin, Inside-Out*, a one person show featuring the work of well known Solana Beach oil painter Catherine Grawin. On exhibit will be the artist's still life paintings, and plein air and studio landscapes. Opening Reception for *Catherine Grawin, Inside Out* will be Saturday, April 6, 4-8 PM. The public is invited. Admission is free.

The late painter Georgia O'Keefe was famous for banging around in an old woody station wagon with her friend and fellow artist Mabel Dodge, camping and plein air painting rural New Mexico along the way. Catherine Grawin loves to camp and plein air paint. She is part of this gutsy tradition of women going out to adventure and paint the countryside, either alone or with each other. After a long spell of studio work or teaching, Grawin looks forward to packing up her art supplies, climbing into her old Ford Explorer and heading out towing her 1955 Airstream trailer studio behind her. The vintage Airstream, when spotted, is usually in close proximity to one of the county's spectacular views. Grawin particularly likes to paint the coast, Anza Borrego, Mt Laguna, and the Julian-Santa Ysabel area.

A native Californian who grew up in Solana Beach, Grawin feels that her early connection to the ocean and coast gave her a deep reverence for nature and for the the old California landscape. Painting what remains of California's precious open spaces and historical sites is a side goal of Grawin's when making landscape paintings. The relaxation and outdoor life of plein air painting are also important to her. The getting away in the Airstream to paint for a weekend

or for several weeks at a time are a balance to her life as a painter and a teacher in the studio. A selection of plein air paintings from the Airstream studio expeditions of Catherine Grawin will be on display at the exhibit *Inside-Out*.

The word *Inside* in the show title *Inside-Out* refers to Catherine Grawin's still life paintings which, along with the landscapes, will also be on display at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery. When Grawin paints a vase of flowers or random arrangements of certain fruits, it is always with that alive kind of vibrating style that is unique to a Catherine Grawin painting. She is known as a colorist and for the bold and loose brushwork that is her style of painting. She finds pleasure in painting old things that she loves or finds beautiful, things such as her old black Singer portable sewing machine, a Brownie Hawkeye camera, or a shiny vintage toaster. Grawin is also a painting teacher and is known for holding her 'edible still life class': beautiful food and wine to be painted and then consumed by the artists at the end of the session.

Grawin made an important career choice about ten years ago. Always a painter but not full time, and locked into the role of magazine art director, she decided to phase out her work in graphic design and make the leap to full time painter. The move has worked out, her paintings are in demand and she is sought after as a teacher. She sees being a full time painter as a journey to meet the artist soul and calls it "the real adventure".

Catherine Grawin teaches oil painting through the La Jolla Athenaeum, UCSD Extension and privately in her studio. She gives public painting demonstrations and has been invited to juror art competitions and exhibits. Her paintings are in the book *Land of Sunlight*. She is a featured painter in the documentary *Plein Air Painters of Santa Ysabel, California*. Grawin lives and has her studio in Solana Beach.

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.