

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

FOLLOWING THE LINE, A JAMES HUBBELL DRAWING EXHIBIT AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, August 31 through October 6, 2013, will be the exhibit *Following the Line*, a one-person show featuring the pen and ink drawings of internationally acclaimed San Diego County artist James Hubbell. Opening Reception for *Following the Line* will be Saturday, August 31, 4 - 8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

James Hubbell is a constant drawer. A multi-talented artist, he is also sculptor, painter, stained glass artist, poet and visionary designer-builder, but drawing and painting are the art that he reserves for himself. His drawings are often literary, populated by mythic creatures, heroes, knights, goddesses, winged beings, denizens of the heavens and the deep. He likes to use a fine point pen and sometimes applies color washes to them. There is a signature lightness and fluidity to a Hubbell pen and ink drawing that invites you into the archetypal world therein. Hubbell began his practice of drawing in the first grade, and is now often seen doodling with sketchbook on knee while talking over a project. Drawing and doodling are ways of thinking for him, and he says drawing has always helped him to get out of his own way when stalking a creative insight, allowing him to go at it in an oblique manner, much as a Bushman hunter stalks a deer.

The exhibit takes its name *Following the Line* from a quote by artist Paul Klee: "Drawing is taking a line for a walk". In the same vein James Hubbell says this about drawing a line: "It is a conversation, a listening to the line, the feel of the pen, a searching for meaning, a making of an image, a walk with a friend." Or in other words, by following one special thread or line, one arrives

at one's own meaning. As a viewer looking in on a Hubbell world, this is what you do in the presence of one of his drawings.

James Hubbell has created many large pieces of public art in San Diego County and around the world and has designed hundreds of commissions: glass, doors, sculpture, architectural details, fountains and gardens. When building, Hubbell works in stained glass, forged iron, wood, cement and other materials. He has designed and built restaurants, homes, chapels, schools and parks. He is especially known for the Chapel at Sea Ranch, in Northern California and for the Doors of Abu Dhabi, now in the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to commission work, current or recent Hubbell design and building projects include two large stained glass windows framing the entrances of the Ramona Library, a large window for the National City Library, and a project in Lakeside, the Cedar Fire Historical Memorial / Garden. The seventh Pacific Rim Park is being completed this summer in Taiwan with the help of twenty-four architectural students from around the world. For many years Hubbell has led design-build classes with students, with some of these classes leading to the construction of parks around the Pacific Rim. He sees the parks as a way to open up dialogue about the evolving Pacific culture and community.

Hubbell's work has become known through videos and publications in the United States and from abroad. He is the subject of two KPBS public television documentaries: *The Art and Vision of James Hubbell* and *Eye of the Beholder*. In the past 15 years he has been honored with three large exhibits at the Oceanside Museum of Art, including a sculpture show this spring, *In Search of Shadows*. He was honored in Moscow, Russia with the exhibit *The Architecture of Jubilation* at the Shusev Central Museum of Architecture. In addition, *A Salute to James Hubbell*, was presented by the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park. James Hubbell makes his home and directs Hubbell Studios in Santa Ysabel.

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery is located at 30352 Hwy 78 at the intersection of Hwy 78 & 79 in Santa Ysabel, seven miles from Julian. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11 AM - 5 PM, closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.