

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

'BONAFIDE PLEIN AIR' AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery will open its yearly landscape show *Bonafide Plein Air, The Eighteenth Annual Plein Air Exhibition* on Saturday, October 12th, 2013. The exhibit runs through November 17th. Reception for the Artists will be Saturday, October 12th, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Painters showing at *Bonafide Plein Air* will be participating in what the artists call a "paint out" on the scenic Santa Ysabel Art Gallery grounds on October 12th, the day of the exhibit opening. It is an opportunity for the public to go behind the scenes and glimpse secrets of plein air painting that artists use. Participating artists will be painting outside on the gallery grounds on Saturday beginning at 2 PM.

There has been a renewed interest in plein air painting in the last decade. An interest both in looking at paintings, and in painting itself. When the weather is good for painting, when the light is right, it is a now fairly common to see plein air painters out with their field easels painting the view in scenic areas around the county. As a result of this awakened interest, plein air events and competitions have become popular throughout the United States, especially in California, where the light is so encouraging to outdoor painting. In its first plein air exhibition eighteen years ago titled *California Impressionists the Next Generation*, Santa Ysabel Art Gallery became one of the first venues in San Diego County to showcase this renewal of interest in plein air painting and impressionism.

The group of California plein air painters who referred to themselves as California Impressionists began in the early 1900's. They were California landscape painters turning to the influence of the then emerging French Impressionists. They liked the way the French painters were inspired by vibrant color and freedom of paint application, and they liked the way that light had taken over French landscape painting in a very big way. The California Impressionists were active throughout California, but especially in the areas near the coast, where moisture created atmospheric conditions that had the effect of softening color in the landscape.

There is a traceable lineage in California's century of outdoor landscape painters. Plein air painting is difficult, with the art of painting 'en plein air' often being passed from one painting generation to the next, from painter to painter, teacher to student. Part of the passing of this outdoor painting tradition is the practice of 'painting out' on plein air outings and camping trips to what are now iconic scenic spots, these journeys accompanied, of course, by the artist's great painting stories (a little like great fishing stories). The scenic areas of San Diego County hosted many of the best of the early California plein air painters, and some of the painting spots depicted in the paintings on exhibit in *Bonafide Plein Air* were once painted by these early California artists. Each of the painters showing in this Santa Ysabel exhibit is, in his or her own way, are part of this landscape painting story and lineage.

Bonafide Plein Air will feature the work of fourteen painters, many of them participants in the Santa Ysabel Art Gallery plein air show since its beginnings. The painters in the exhibit are Joan Boyer, Annie Dover, Adele Earnshaw, Joe Garcia, Andrea Gaye, Stan Goudey, Catherine Grawin, Will Gullette, James Hubbell, Grant Hughes, Pat Kelly, Margaret Larlham, Ken Roberts and Sally Snipes.

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78 at Highway 79 in Santa Ysabel, seven miles down mountain from Julian. Admission is free to the gallery. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11AM - 5 PM, and by appointment, closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.