

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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

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CONTACT: ANNIE ROWLEY

760-765-1676

SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

PAT KELLY EXHIBIT “ROSE.RABBIT.ROSE” AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, April 21 through May 27, 2018, will be *Rose.Rabbit.Rose*, a one person show featuring new paintings and drawings by Pat Kelly. On exhibit will be the artist's large contemporary rose paintings and smaller drawings of rabbits. Kelly is a well known in San Diego County as a still life and landscape painter. She is a teacher of painting and drawing at the Athenaeum Art and Music Library in La Jolla, The Art Center in Ramona, and privately in her studio. Opening Reception for *Rose.Rabbit.Rose* will be Saturday, April 21, 4-7 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

In the past 13 years Pat Kelly's work at the easel has taken her in the direction of still life painting. A visit by Kelly a few years ago to the traditional English rose garden at Pasadena's Huntington Library moved and inspired her to try her hand at growing the famous and beautiful David Austin English roses. She grew roses and she painted them. The end result of cultivating the extra petal Austin roses were the contemporary rose paintings that she has been working on in recent years. The idea that an artist could enter the realm of a rose completely through painting has a large appeal to Kelly, a kind of “artist achieves the perfect painting of a rose” idea.

Along with the paintings and drawings of rabbits in this show (a fascination for Kelly with roots in the symbolic world and the natural life outside of her studio), there will be five of these large and spectacular rose paintings on display, contemporary paintings of single roses bisected by geometric lines. Kelly calls these enticing and sensual pieces Rose/Arc paintings and points out that they have a circular spiraling energy that is echoed by the other works in the show. She says that this circular feel is another distinctive attribute to the group of paintings in the exhibit and has the effect of making the viewer feel that "you are a bee right in the middle of the painting, all things being designed to enclose and protect what is in the center".

A native San Diegan, Pat Kelly holds a BA in Visual Art from the University of California, San Diego and has been the subject of a major article in *American Artist* magazine. Kelly has had six one person exhibitions at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery. She has a popular blog that is read by artists and collectors alike where she writes about the painting process and what goes on in the studio. She lives with her husband and has her studio in the country near Ramona close to the farm his family homesteaded in 1908. Living next to nature in this kind of rootedness has had its influence on Kelly's art. Her subject matter is fed by changing seasons, fruit from the orchard, flowers from her garden ... and there is a rhythm to her painting day that incorporates feeding horses, tending to dogs and mulching and composting.

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. The gallery is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call gallerist Annie Rowley at 760-765-1676.