

# Santa Ysabel Gallery

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RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY  
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Santa Ysabel, Ca. - Paintings by Impressionists Constantine Cherkas and Alexander Cherkas will be featured in the new show at the Santa Ysabel Gallery starting Saturday, June 25. A reception honoring the artists will be held on the Gallery grounds from 4 to 8 p.m.

This is the first time that the Cherkass, father and son, have exhibited together.

Constantine Cherkas, born in Russia, studied at the Academies of ART in Moscow, Munich and Vienna before emigrating to the United States in 1950. He lived in Santa Monica before moving to Julian three years ago.

Alexander studied at the Sergei Bongart Academy in Santa Monica and received additional training in Europe.

"We are proud to be the first to exhibit the works of Alexander Cherkas, in Southern California," said Don Blackburn, Director of the gallery.

Called "...a Russian Rouault," Constantine Cherkas, has sometimes been compared to Picasso. He was awarded first prize in an exhibition of California artists sponsored by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He also has been honored by the Artists of the Southwest, the Bavarian Union ART League and the American Institute of Fine Art.

Constantine, a U. S. citizen, received a signal honor when he was invited for a one man show next year at the Pushkin Museum, Moscow.

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CHERKAS

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While driving through New Mexico Constantine was "...so excited to see these vibrant and beautiful colors. I thought I will paint West, but I will paint West not as illustrator, like other painters paint, but as colorist. I will show dramatic colors and mood of the West, not the story, somebody shooting, somebody riding, but the state of spirit when you are here.

"Color is everything. Without color, you cannot express West. When the light changes the canyons change, the mountains change and become unbelievably beautiful," Constantine said.

"In the West is light entirely different. It's powerful and more dramatic. Vibrant."

For Constantine the creative act consists of painting a picture of the remembered scene "...not," he says, "as it appears but as I feel it should be."

The show runs through July 31.

The Santa Ysabel Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78, Santa Ysabel. Hours are 10 a.m., until 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, please call 765-1676.