

Santa Ysabel Gallery

30352 Hwy 78
Post Office Box 480
Santa Ysabel, California 92070
619.765.1676

RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

CONTACT: DON BLACKBURN

Santa Ysabel, Ca. - National wildlife artist Joe Garcia will exhibit his latest work in watercolor at the Santa Ysabel Gallery beginning Saturday, August 6 with a reception from 4 to 8 p.m.

Garcia will be on hand to greet visitors and answer questions about his new collection of work.

Known for his watercolor paintings of birds and animals, Garcia notes that the California Quail is probably his most sought after subject, and the bird he most enjoys painting. Wildlife and its habitat is important to Garcia, as evidenced by his donations of original and limited edition art each year to various conservation organizations.

IN 1993, the State of California and Quail Unlimited, a conservation group, commissioned Garcia to paint the First of State Upland Game Bird Stamp. The stamp program provides funding for quail habitat, and each site that is recovered and conserved benefits many other animals, plants, insects and reptiles. The stamp and the accompanying limited edition print is available for purchase by collectors.

Living in the mountains near Julian, Garcia can observe a variety of birds and animals in their natural habitat. He takes thousands of photographs on his travels each year to use as reference for the portrayal of his subjects. He points out that although the subject is carefully detailed, the background of the painting is usually loose and interpretive. There are always exceptions! A recent painting, titled "Bird z'n the Hood,"

Santa Ysabel Gallery

30352 Hwy 78
Post Office Box 480
Santa Ysabel, California 92070
619.765.1676

PAGE 2

GARCIA

shows a flock of pigeons flying up against a background of inner-city graffiti on a block wall. The entire painting was "in focus" and detailed.

Garcia is a native of San Diego County. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles in 1970. While working as a graphic illustrator, he pursued his watercolor vocation in his free time and in 1983, chose to work as a fine artist exclusively. He prefers watercolor for its versatility and spontaneity, although trained also in acrylics and oils. Garcia disciplines himself to work ten to twelve hours every day to prepare for shows and wildlife art exhibits throughout the nation, including the Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show in Tacoma, Wash., the Easton Waterfowl Festival in Maryland, Wildlife West in Redlands, and the Pacific Flyway Decoy Festival, Sacramento.

The exhibit runs through Sept. 11.

The Santa Ysabel Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78, Santa Ysabel. Call 765-1676 for more information.