10th Annual Autumn Art Studios Tour

More than 80 artists participate in a self-guided tour Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9
“Cardinal Axes,” acrylic by Tesia Blackburn

About the Artist
Stan Padilla is a multi-discipline artist whose mediums include drawing, painting, muralism, and jewelry-making. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. While maintaining a private studio, he also focuses on art that includes public participation. This year he facilitated “Path of Quartz,” a labyrinth project along the American River; “Blossoming,” a complex seed/bead mandala project (containing more than 5,000 beans); “Pride of Sacramento Lion Project,” a painted fiberglass lion sculpture; and “Pathways to Peace,” a large-scale painted canvas mandala created at the Gateway Music Festival in Auburn.

About the Cover
Blue Altars: A Lapis Blue Painting Series, of which the cover is a part, began in the summer of 2002. Already in the series are 18 paintings. The theme of the series is healing, meditation, and universal transformation. Current works in the series are on display at Padilla’s studio, in The Arts Building, Auburn, and will be on exhibit in the gallery there in September. In addition, his cultural work will be on display in September as part of the inaugural exhibition at The Original Lorenzo’s Restaurant in Auburn.

Contributors
Writer Janis Dice (“Vivace Violinist,” pg. 18) is a frequent contributor to Comstock’s Business magazine and the Discover magazines published by the Sacramento Bee. Her Community Profiles and Home and Garden feature articles appear weekly in the Auburn Journal. She is a regular features contributor to Perspectives.
Director's Message

Ten years of Autumn Art Studios Tour

I clearly remember the day more than 11 years ago that artist Helen Phillips walked into my office at Lincoln Arts to discuss an idea. Her vision was to create a link between artists and the public by organizing a selected group of outstanding visual artists from the region, and inviting visitors into their working studios. I thought it was a marvelous idea. More than that, it fit well into the mission of Lincoln Arts and Culture Foundation.

Next, Helen and I met with Larry Ortiz, then director of the Arts Council of Placer County, and got to work on the details. If the Arts Council and Lincoln Arts would spot the program’s development and raise public interest, Helen would muster the artists and serve as chair. Larry and I agreed to serve as her committee “co-chairs.” With the tour, Helen also sought to improve the visibility of local arts centers in Western Placer County. Roseville Arts Center, Lincoln Arts, and the Arts Council of Placer County enthusiastically agreed to participate.

Helen urged her fellow artists to consider applying, developed the map of selected locations, initiated a press campaign, and oversaw the inaugural Autumn Art Studios Tour, in 1993. She went on to chair and coordinate the project for two more years, before Persia Woolley was contracted to assist. Karen Rader then served as coordinator for one tour. For the past two years, Rosie Stilwell has coordinated the activity of the all-artist, all-volunteer Autumn Art Studios Tour Steering Committee whose members include Judy Dawson, Patty Pieropan Dong, Chris Foster, Mya Louw, Phawnda Moore, Janet Nicholson, Ann Ranlett, Leona Reber, Merridee Smith, Rebecca Sobaje, Cindy Strickland, and advisory members Barbara Paitich and Helen Phillips. All of these reliable committee members will participate in this year’s tour.

Experience the 2003 Autumn Art Studios Tour. Enjoy the fall colors and the picturesque back roads of western Placer County. On the tour, art in a great variety of media will be on view in studio settings and available for purchase. Artists will be on hand to talk with visitors. Help us celebrate 10 years of art touring fun in the foothills.

— Angela Juliano Tabti, Executive Director, Arts Council of Placer County

This issue of Perspectives is dedicated in fond memory of artist Susan Cooley-Gilliom.
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### 1. Rusch Delong
**Stone Spheres**

Take I-80 to Hwy 174 outside of Colfax. Follow signs to Rollins Lake Rd. Right on Glen Alder when you see the lake. Left on Norton Grade, 1st house on left. 26705 Norton Grade Road, Colfax. (530) 346-8738

**2. Sandra Delong**
**Oil**

Showing with Rusch Delong (#1)

**3. Rebecca Sobaje**
**Fabric, Jewelry**

I-80 to Colfax exit. Follow off ramp on sharp right loop. Right at first stop sign, cross over the freeway. Right at next stop sign onto Auburn St., which curves to the left into historic downtown Colfax and crosses the railroad tracks. Left at stop sign onto Main St. Right at next stop sign to 11 West Church St., Colfax. (530) 346-7160

**4. Andrew Laursen**
**Wildlife Photography**

Hwy 49 North: Overhill Dr. is the left turn just before the Bear River. (3/4 miles from Dry Creek Rd.), Hwy 49 South: Overhill Dr. is the right turn just past the Bear River. Once you have made turn, go through open gate, follow signs. House at end, 1 mile from gate. 11391 Overhill Dr., Auburn. (530) 269-1231

**5. Chris Kittredge**
**Digital Painting, Photography**

Showing with Andrew Laursen (#4)

**6. Barbara Hoffmann**
**Ink Drawing, Fiber Work, Watercolor, Colored Pencil**

Showing with Andrew Laursen (#4)

**7. Barbra Paitich**
**Silk Painting, Silk/Steel Wall Sculpture, Glass Jewelry**

From Lane Star Rd. and Bell Rd., south ½ mile. From Cramer 1 mile north. 5841 Bell Rd., Auburn. (530) 269-2966

**8. Rick and Janet Nicholson**
**Blown Glass**

Corner of Bell and Cramer 5555 Bell Rd, Auburn. (530) 823-1631
13. **Patty Pieropan Dong**  
Watercolor, Oil, Block Printing  
460 Old Airport Rd., Auburn.  
(530) 823-1963

14. **Sonja Hamilton**  
Watercolor, Silk  
Hwy. 49 to Dry Creek Rd. to “Saddleback” follow signs to Christian Valley; Blue Grass to left on second Moss Rock, to right on Virginia, to right on Kenneth, to right on Kimo. Studio on left at end of Rd. Alternate route: Hwy 49 north, to east on Florence, left on Helen, right on Kenneth, right on Kimo. 3500 Kimo Way, Auburn. (530) 878-4700

15. **Anita Posey**  
Lowe  
I-80 to Dry Creek Rd. Turn left onto Dry Creek, right on Christian Valley Rd. Proceed 2 miles to 1855 Christian Valley Rd., Auburn. (530) 878-8034

16. **Matthew Joseph Peak**  
Oil Painting, Pastel, Graphite, Etching, Sculpture, Photography  
From I-80 exit Clipper Gap/Meadow Vista, turn left over I-80 onto Placer Hills Rd. 1½ miles to right on Cole Rd. ½ mile on Cole Rd. 625 Cole Rd., Meadow Vista. (530) 878-9027
17. Pat Kodet
Watercolor, Acrylic, Computer Art
I-80 east from Auburn, Exit Clipper Gap/Meadow Vista. Turn left at Placer Hills Rd. Drive 2 miles. Turn right on Livingston Rd. 3rd house on left (up cement driveway), 852 Livingston Rd., Meadow Vista. (530) 878-8538

18. Larry Carnes
Stoneware, Porcelain
Take I-80 to Applegate Exit. On north side of I-80 go right on Crother Rd. ¾ mile to #375, turn onto unpaved driveway, cross creek. Studio is on the right. 375 Crother Rd., Meadow Vista. (530) 878-6286
19. Diane J. Wood  
Glass, Metal  
From I-80 Bell Rd., right on Haines Rd. Turn right before the one lane bridge. Up hill to studio on left. From Dry Creek Rd. right on Haines Rd., turn left just after the one lane bridge, up hill, studio on left. 14155 Carriage Oak Ln., Auburn. (530) 878-0663  

20. Linda Farley  
Acrylic Painting, Glass Jewelry  
I-80 exit Bell Rd. north, right at Haines Rd., left onto Dry Creek Rd, left on Sunny Oaks, left on Wright Rd. 13635 Wright Rd., Auburn. (530) 878-8972  

21. Paula DiLeo  
Mixed Media  
Off Hwy 49, left on Bell Rd. Go Past DeWitt Center, left on Deseret Dr. Take road almost to the end. Spanish style house on the left. 3015 Deseret Dr., Auburn. (530) 888-6552  

22. Dorene J. Kidd  
Glass Beads, Colored Pencil  
Take Luther Rd. to Matson. First left is Sierra View Circle, 7th house on left. 855 Sierra View Circle, Auburn. (530) 885-5440  

23. Susan Sorensen  
Multimedia, Painting  
Baskets, Decorated Gourds.  
Showing with Dorene J. Kidd (#22)  

24. Meech Miyagi  
Art Planet Ceramic Sculpture, Pottery, Mixed Media  
From Hwy 49 take Atwood Rd. to Mt. Vernon Rd. (stay right). Turn into Art Planet; approx. 5 miles from Hwy 49. 7600 Mount Vernon Rd., Auburn. (530) 888-8422  

25. Marilyn Russell  
Clay  
Studio is down third driveway on the left. 2049 Ali Lane, Auburn. (530) 823-5464  

26. California Welcome Center, Auburn  
The California Welcome Center, Auburn will be glad to assist with your travel plans. Our friendly ambassadors provide information on history, geography, recreation, and overnight accommodations in Placer County and the region. (530) 887-2111
27. Carol Jones Wescoatt
Metal, Gourds

I-80 East, exit Auburn Ravine Rd./Foresthill Rd. Left on Auburn Ravine Rd., right on Shackley Rd. 330 Shackley Rd., Auburn. (530) 888-6118

28. Rita Forman
Clay, Lampworked Glass Jewelry, Silver Jewelry

From Auburn I-80 take Ophir Rd. off-ramp. From Sacramento on I-80 take Hwy 193 off-ramp to Ophir Rd. to Stone House Rd. One mile to Voyiatzes Rd. Follow signs to studio. 10707 Voyiatzes Rd., Auburn. (530) 823-9293

29. Virginia Dains
Sculptural Ceramics, Naked Raku

From Hwy 49 take Atwood Rd. to Mt. Vernon Rd. (stay right). 7 miles turn left on Ayres Holmes Rd. First drive on the right. From 193 take Gold Hill Rd. Right on Wise, left on Ayres Holmes Rd. 3371 Ayres Holmes Rd., Auburn. (530) 888-9180
30. Leona Reber  
Clay Sculpture  
Showing with Virginia Dains (#29)

31. Bonnie Sare  
Clay  
Showing with Virginia Dains (#29)

32. Joni Warwick  
Clay  
Showing with Virginia Dains (#29)

33. Marianne DeMartini  
Ceramics  
From I-80 East exit Elm Street and turn left onto Elm. Turn left onto High St., turn left onto Lincoln Way/Hwy 49. Turn right onto Foresthill Ave. 225 Foresthill Ave., Auburn. (530) 885-4174

34. Old Library Art Studios  
From I-80 take Elm St. exit, go right on High St. then right on East Placer one block, left on Almond. Map/ticket sold here during tour. 175 Almond St., Auburn. (530) 887-8216

35. Melissa Arnold  
Hand-dyed Textiles  
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)

36. Nancy E. Foster  
Jewelry  
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)

37. Gerda Francesca  
Clay, Mosaic Designs, Mixed Media  
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)
38. Tommie Moller
3-D Clay, Watercolor, Oil, Acrylic, Etchings, Photo Lithographs
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)

39. Dena “Ashbah” Ratner
Mixed Media
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)

40. Gail Trapnell Robertson
Watercolor, Oil
Showing at Old Library Art Studios (#34)

41. Arts Council of Placer County at:
42. The Arts Building

Map/tickets sold here during tour. From I-80 east, exit Elm St., left onto Elm, right onto High St., left onto Cleveland St., right onto Lincoln Way.
808 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 885-5670 or (530) 885-2787
Tour preview exhibit opens October 6

43. B. C. Brooks
Dyes on Silk
Showing at The Arts Building, Downstairs Gallery (#42)

44. Reif Erickson
Pastel
Showing at The Arts Building (#42)

45. Linda Green
Watercolor, Acrylic, Mixed Media
Showing at The Arts Building (#42)

46. Stan Padilla
Painting, Cards, Jewelry
Showing at The Arts Building (#42)
47. J. Randall Smith
Ceramic Sculpture, Pottery
Showing at The Arts Building, Downstairs Gallery (#42)

48. Merridee Joan Smith
Silk Painting
Showing at The Arts Building, Downstairs Gallery (#42)

49. Keith Sutter
Photography
Showing at The Arts Building, Downstairs Gallery (#42)

50. Sandy Wythawai
3D Mixed Media
Showing at The Arts Building (#42)

51. Brian Fries
Ceramic Sculpture, Pottery
From I-80, exit Hwy 49 South. Turn left onto Lincoln Way, right onto High Street, then left onto College Way to the top of the hill on the right. 136 College Way, Auburn. (530) 888-1057

52. Kathlene L. Fries
Mixed Painting
Showing with Brian Fries (#51)

53. Sondra Hersh
Acrylic
Take High St. to Agard, (Placer H.S. on corner) turn left onto Agard St. and continue over R.R. tracks where it turns into Gold St. Stay on Gold St., following it around to the right until it straightens out. Go to end and turn right at “Y”. The studio is on the right. 420 Gold Street, Auburn. (530) 885-6179

54. Ursula Johnson
Printmaking, Linocuts
I-80 to Newcastle Exit. Follow Indian Hill Rd. to Auburn-Folsom Rd. Turn left. Right on Maidu, left on Riverview Drive, then right on Vista Del Lago. 1945 Vista Del Lago, Auburn. (530) 823-9126
55. Judy Dawson
Watercolor
Hwy 193 toward Lincoln. Right on Gold Hill Rd., right on Chaparral Ln. Or toward Newcastle, left on Gold Hill, right on Chaparral. (first mailbox on right). 6690 Chaparral Ln., Newcastle. (916) 663-3104

56. Lynda L. Pike
Watercolor
Showing with Judy Dawson (#55)

57. Marcia Murray
Watercolor
Showing with Judy Dawson (#55)

58. Ann Ranlett
Pen & Ink, Photography
Hwy 193 to Mandarin Hill Rd. Go ½ mile up road and turn right where road splits — first house on left. 490 Mandarin Hill Rd., Newcastle. (916) 663-0322

59. Donna and Gary Claggett
Clay
Showing with Ann Ranlett (#58)

60. Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation
Map/tickets sold here during tour. 540 F Street, P.O. Box 1166, Lincoln. (916) 645-9713

61. Patrick Osborne
Photography
From Hwy 65 exit Twelve Bridges Dr. 1 mile east to signal at East Lincoln, go left at Del Webb Blvd. Turn right on Carriage Lane, right at Stone Hearth Ln. 1165 Stone Hearth Ln., Lincoln. (916) 408-4152

62. Barbara Newell
Clay
Hwy 65, turn right on Twelve Bridges, left on East Lincoln Parkway, right on Del Webb Blvd., left on Cottage Rose, right on Leander Ln. 1813 Leander Ln., Lincoln. (916) 434-2543
63. Sandy Delehanty
Watercolor, Oil
Two-story Victorian farmhouse on the right. (white rail fence). 8041 Boulder Creek Rd., Penryn. (916) 652-4626

64. Brenda Dominguez
Watercolor, Colored Pencil
From King Rd, south on Day Ave, left on Eldon, right on Silver Ranch. 3578 Silver Ranch, Loomis. (916) 652-6952

65. Paula Amerine
Oil Pastel, Colored Pencil, Multimedia
Showing with Brenda Dominguez (#64)

66. Doug Horton
Ceramics (functional, non-functional) Jewelry (mother of pearl, pearls)
I-80 West from Auburn, exit Penryn Rd, left over freeway to stop sign, left on King Rd. Right at first dirt driveway 7440 King Rd., Loomis. (916) 652-4351

67. Helen W. Phillips
Batik
3870 Leak Lane, Loomis. (916) 652-6870

68. James Hirschinger
Photography
On left side of the street. Studio entrance on right side of the house. 3700 North Lakeshore Blvd., Loomis. (916) 652-4536

69. Imi Lehmbrock-Hirschinger
Oil, Mixed Media
Showing with James Hirschinger (#68)

70. Jannelle and Danika Gooch
Fine European Fiber Yarns, Glass Beads, Semi-precious Stones for Pillows, Fiber Necklaces, Purses, Cards, Lampshades, Sculpture
Auburn-Folsom Rd. toward Roseville. Left on Horseshoe Bar Rd. Go 0.8 mile to N. Lakeshore Blvd. Left on N. Lakeshore. Go .9 mile to end of N. Lakeshore Blvd. Parking in the driveway or cul-de-sac. 3415 N. Lakeshore Blvd., Loomis. (916) 652-3165
71. Victoria Brooks  
Oil on Canvas, Watercolor  
From Auburn-Folsom Rd., turn east into Placer Canyon Homes (gated) left on Vista Cove Pl. Call from gate phone if closed. 4717 Vista Cove Place, Loomis. (916) 652-9448

72. Finnish Temperance Hall  
I-80 to Rocklin Rd. At South Grove Street, turn left and park beside the building. Map/tickets sold here during tour. 4090 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin.
73. Earl Bianchi
Wire Sculpture, Watercolor
Showing at Finnish Temperance Hall (#72)

74. Judy Larson
Oil Pencil, Watercolor
Showing at Finnish Temperance Hall (#72)

75. Marvin R. Larson
Photography (digital)
Showing at Finnish Temperance Hall (#72)

76. Connie Omans
Mixed Media
Showing at Finnish Temperance Hall (#72)

77. Gayle Rappaport-Weiland
Mixed Media, Watercolor
Showing at Finnish Temperance Hall (#72)

78. Diane Ruhkala Bell
Monotype Prints, Mixed Media
From I-80 go west on Rocklin Rd., left on S. Grove, right on Winding Ln. 4045 Winding Ln, Rocklin. (916) 624-2217

79. Phawnda Moore
Watercolor, Calligraphy, Illustration, Asian Vases, Notes, Magnets
From I-80 West exit Sierra College Blvd., turn left. At third stop light, turn right on El Don Dr. First stop sign is Ambassador Dr.; turn right. 5667 Ambassador Dr., Rocklin. (916) 630-0505

80. Valerie Story
Oil, Watercolor
I-80 exit Sierra College Blvd. Left on Rocklin Rd. Turn right on Barton at stop sign. Continue until you come to 2nd stop sign at “T” in road. Turn left onto Olive Ranch Rd. 5832 Olive Ranch Rd., Granite Bay. (916) 791-3109
81. Lorelee Love
Clay
From I-80 Exit
Douglas Blvd. East,
5 miles to Hill Rd.,
right turn, go 2 blocks.
7795 Hill Rd., Granite
Bay. (916) 791-0299

82. Chris K. Foster
Calligraphy in Acrylic
and Watercolor
From I-80 exit Douglas
Blvd. East, right on
Auburn-Folsom Rd.,
immediate left on
Fuller, right on Bronson.
Please enter through
Hill Road gate. 8802 Bronson Dr., Granite Bay. (916) 300-2324

83. Mya Louw
Oil, Pastel, Acrylic
From Douglas, turn
South on Barton Rd.
Left onto MacDuff,
right on to Oak Leaf
Way. 9330 Oak Leaf
Way, Granite Bay. (916) 772-2402

84. Joe Strickland
Acrylic Painting,
Mixed Media
From E. Roseville Pkwy.,
north on Elmhurst Dr.,
right on Chelshire, left on
Cracker, left on Citadel
Ct. 5004 Citadel Ct.,
Granite Bay. (916) 791-0447

85. John F. Johnson
Digital Photography
From I-80 West, exit
Douglas Blvd. East. Go
1.2 miles, turn right on
Rocky Ridge Rd. Pass
Professional Drive, turn
left on Hackamore, which
becomes Winchester Ct.
Studio is second house on left. 503 Winchester Ct., Roseville.
(916) 772-9448

86. Darlene
Engellenner
Sculpture, Collage,
Acrylics
I-80 Douglas exit to Sunrise
Ave. South on Sunrise to
Coloma Way (about ½ mile).
Turn left at the church, then
right onto Oakridge and
immediately left onto Tiffany
Circle-2nd house, 2nd block
on right side of the street. 1408 Tiffany Circle, Roseville.
(916) 782-2909

87. Margot Comer
Studio 5 Gallery
Oil
From I-80 Exit Douglas
Blvd. West, toward down-
town Roseville. Stay in the
right lane and bear right
on Judah St. Second right
on Oak St. Studio 5 Gallery is on the left side in first block. Parking in
rear alley. 510 Oak St., Roseville. (916) 771-8955

88. Roseville Arts
Center/ 405
Gallery
Map/ticket sold here
during tour.
405 Vernon St., Roseville.
(916) 783-4117
Vivace Violinist

Auburn Symphony’s concertmaster leads an up-tempo life

by Janis Dice

Get violinist Pamela Buck talking about her diverse career as a professional musician and the many honors she’s received through the years, and it’s bound to take a while to get the whole story. Beginning her fifth season as concertmaster of the Auburn Symphony, Buck has Bachelor’s of Music and Master of Music degrees, is a professional string teacher, conducts the newly formed Sierra College Youth String Orchestra (for students in third through eighth grades), and works closely with the Sacramento Youth Symphony Orchestra as string coach and adjudicator. She performs symphony and chamber music with groups such as the Sacramento Philharmonic and Choral Society orchestras, the Camellia Symphony Orchestra, and Friends of the Mother Lode-Sutter Creek Concert Series. Last year, she performed at a chamber music recital that was part of the Crocker Art Museum Series.

Earlier, Buck was concertmaster of the Diablo Symphony Orchestra in Walnut Creek for 13 years. She was also Conductor of the Young Performers String Orchestra of Walnut Creek for more than a decade, working with two groups of students in third through ninth grades. From 1970 through 1999, she spent “many fine summers” at Interlochen National Music Camp in Michigan, learning and performing orchestral and chamber music, gaining solo and concertmaster experience. For two years she taught the String Methods Program, for credentialing string teachers, at California State University, Sacramento.

The recipient of the 1996 Contra Costa Women of Achievement Award for excellence in music and teaching, and honored with a City of Walnut Creek Proclamation Award,

Buck is a woman whose life is one big musical medley that weaves friends and family into a hectic schedule of lessons and performances, rehearsals and auditions. It’s a vivace lifestyle, and she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I’ve played in community orchestras all my life,” Buck says. “It keeps my skills fresh and it’s good inspiration for my students. And, obviously I like the role of being No. 1.”

That role is exactly what is required of a concertmaster. The accomplished violinist is responsible for leading Auburn Symphony’s various sections during practices and performances. Her duties include tuning the orchestra before each rehearsal and concert, which gives Buck special pleasure. “I like to be the leader of the pack,” she says, laughing.

She also helps determine the correct method of bowing for particular sections of the pieces and marks them on the musicians’ sheet music. That ability comes from experience, she says, and input from the conductor, Michael Goodwin.

“We collaborate for bowings and for phrasing of the musical line, taking notes within the measures and creating a contour of shapes and shades of sound,” she explains. “With the strings, you do that with the bow.”

The concertmaster also confers with Maestro Goodwin on the design of concert programs — the choice of one piece or another — and helps evaluate the musicians’ abilities to play certain works. The symphony, whose players are a mix of amateur and professional musicians, has been steadily improving, Buck says, working to meet the high standards set by her and Goodwin.

The Auburn Symphony’s 2003 – 2004 season will present “a nice blend of challenges” to the musicians, Buck notes, which means more opportunities for growth for her, too.

“It’s a job — a real job — for me,” she says of the concertmaster’s paid position. “But it’s truly a labor of love.”
Shaping the Future of the
Arts in Education

Cynthia Van Kleeck has been an integral part of the commitment of Placer County Arts Council, Placer Union High School District, and California Arts Council to shape the future of the arts in education. Art programs in the district’s high schools are being continuously developed thanks to the funding and support of these organizations and dedicated teachers such as Van Kleeck.

Three years ago, high school district administrators and art department chairpeople formed a steering committee to work with Angela Tahti, the arts council’s executive director. The committee created a Visual and Performing Arts program (VAPA) to give art teachers access to community and statewide resources. Teachers immediately began adapting what they learned for use in the classroom. Since then, Van Kleeck and other art teachers have participated in workshops, classes, conferences, classroom visits, art shows, and retreats.

At the state’s Local Arts Education Partnership (LAEP) Convention in Sacramento last fall, participants continued to evaluate the “Art is a Core Subject ToolKit” and to work math and science curriculums into state standards through VAPA.

High school photography teachers Rick Brown (Colfax), Kim Brown (Placer), Barbara Milholland (Del Oro), and Van Kleeck (Maidu), attended a Digital Photography Workshop last February. There, the teachers worked with digital cameras, software and scanners; they increased their mastery of imaging guidelines, portfolio requirements, and fundraising. In April, Van Kleeck joined artist Larry Ortiz at the “VAPA Sampler” meeting to present a ceramics standards-based lesson to other teachers, who found it was much easier to learn and apply the standards in this format.

As the group works together and learns from each other, the focus of the art programs sharpens. In May, Miccie McNee brought an alumni student, who is now an actor, to Maidu/Chana High School to perform and exchange ideas with the students. Events such as these bring the “real world” of visual and performing arts and classroom lessons together to reveal to students the possibilities of a future in the arts.

In August, Van Kleeck attended a weeklong, intensive program at UC Davis sponsored by the Sierra North Arts Project Region III and the California Art Project. “Pathways to the Arts,” as it was called, provided invaluable teaching strategies involving the arts, she said. “Standards-based demonstrations and lessons during the week were designed to facilitate work in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts in powerful ways.”

As the new school year begins at Maidu High School, Van Kleeck has designed a rich program called Introduction to Art/Explore Art Through Nature, for her independent study students. Material to be covered includes Introduction to Artists and Art History, Drawing Techniques, Balance and Collage, Pen and Ink, Color Theory and Water Color, Portraits, Food Sculpture, and Photography.

Van Kleeck, like the other Placer Union High School District teachers, are advocates for shaping the future of the arts in education. They encourage others who value art to take action in supporting local interest and education in the arts.

The most challenging part of my job has been to convince others of the great wonders of art education — the opportunities for growth it provides — and to help them understand the standards (Aesthetics and Understanding the Elements of Art), and to use them. The more I learn, the more I realize the amount of growth that is possible.

—Cynthia Van Kleeck, Art Teacher, Maidu High School

If you’re interested in improving arts education for kids... you’ll need a license.

The Arts License Plate, designed by renowned California artist Wayne Thiebaud, is the first plate in the nation solely designed to benefit the Arts. Your purchase of the Arts plate helps fund arts education and local art programming in schools and communities throughout California. Order your plate today by calling (800) 201-6201 or visit www.cac.ca.gov.
Six-year-old artist shows work at Tahoe

Some of Cleo Mayer’s paintings are taller than she is. Cleo is only six years old, so it’s not odd that she’s shorter than a four-foot-square piece of masonite. It’s not even too unusual that she’s seriously making art on masonite and canvas. What’s a little uncommon is that Cleo’s art was hung in exhibition in the summer at the Thunder Ridge Cafe at Alpine Meadows.

“She draws more than I do,” said her dad, Tahoe City artist Jeremy Mayer. “Her sketch books are full. She gives herself exercises.”

Cleo’s mother is Truckee artist Sara Orme-Johnson. Her grandfather, David Orme-Johnson is also a painter.

In one painting with about eight cats, Mayer said, Cleo has posed each animal in a different way. “It’s like she tries out formulas,” Mayer said. “I have to say her work is vibrant, colorful, abstract.”

Cleo will enter first grade at Glenshire Elementary School this fall. The idea for a show came from Cleo. She’s attended exhibitions of her father’s and other artists’ work and asked about doing one of her own.


Poetry contest winners announced

Brian Morris, owner and publisher of Singing Tree Press, feted the winners of the 2003 Sierra Foothill Poetry Contest with a publication party at The Arts Building, in Auburn.

S. Jaques Boone of Avery won the Clark Ashton Smith Poetry Prize in the adult category, and Cassie Lipowitz of Grass Valley received the Eulalie Prize for younger poets. Erin Rogers of Grass Valley and Tasia Ray Elizabeth Weatherly were given the Editor’s Choice Awards.

The winning poems plus those of the 18 Finalists and 31 Honorable Mentions are compiled in Singing Tree’s newest book, Little Town USA.

“We plan to sponsor this contest every year,” Morris said, noting that the quality of work submitted was exceptional, and both subject and age range delighted him. “Our youngest entrant was six, and the oldest is Nona McGlashan, who is in her 90’s and won an Honorable Mention,” he explained.

Singing Tree published two other books this summer: The Teen Heart Speaks, short plays for Christian youth by Morris, and a collection of Sharon Ramirez’s poems entitled Blue Moon Cafe. Ramirez recently moved to Auburn and is much involved in developing a local writer’s group.

Arts Council of Placer County awarded grant

The Mother Lode Foundation recently chose the Arts Council of Placer County as the recipient of a $4,000 grant. The grant was awarded, wrote the foundation’s secretary-treasurer Dan Conners, “to assist you with artistic programs that promote creative thinking, celebrate diversity, and foster community communications.”

In June, the arts council participated in Mother Lode Foundation’s first Community Building - Grant Making Event, held, Conners wrote, to share and develop ideas and programs which “ultimately contribute toward a sustainable community.”

Artist Stan Padilla is project mentor for the grant.

For more information, call the Arts Council of Placer County at (530) 885-5670.

Season’s final Auburn Art Walk set for Oct. 9

More than 30 businesses, shops, restaurants, galleries and public buildings participate in the Auburn Art Walk season, April to October. At the year’s last Art Walk, October 9, 6 to 9
p.m., local and regional artists will exhibit and sell their work at those 30 venues — located in Downtown, Old Town, and around town Auburn. At several of them, musicians will be performing live, indoors and out. Free to the public, the Art Walk acquaints visitors with the work, in a wide variety of mediums, of both established and emerging artists. At many venues, the artist or artists are available to answer questions or chat with patrons.

“makes a fun, interesting evening,” says Phyllis Butz, Art Walk chair. “Many people have dinner somewhere in town first and then make their way around to all the venues enjoying the art, the artists, and the other people they meet. It’s casual, social — and can be very enlightening!”

Brochures with Art Walk maps are available at each exhibiting venue and at the Arts Council of Placer County office, 808 Lincoln Way. A free shuttle bus is available for Art Walk patrons. (530) 885-5670.

**Group notes progress toward Placer Performing Arts Center**

Having achieved non-profit status, completed a feasibility study, and established a fund-raising committee, the group promoting restoration of Auburn’s old State Theater as the Placer Performing Arts Center is off and running.

“Looking toward the coming year, I see the culmination of our efforts to acquire the State Theater,” wrote PPAC president Monroe DeJarnette in the group’s first newsletter, published in July. “I see the expansion of committees into teams with specific tasks....With the re-construction of the State, we believe that we have a winner!”

For the last four years, PPAC members have been working with State Theater owners and the City of Auburn, researching performing arts centers in other cities, and getting organized to mount a fund-raising campaign. Newly installed board members include DeJarnette, president elect Walt Riley, treasurer Richard Cushman, secretary Kelly Lardner and past president Bill Lipschultz. Committee chairs include Bud Pisarek, Janet North, Paul Ogden, Glenda Gonzales, Cynthia Kurrell, Miccie McNee, Esther Stanton, and Doris Viera.

PPAC board meetings, held the third Friday of the month, 4 p.m., in the Auburn City Hall’s Rose Room, are open to the public.

For more information about Placer Performing Arts Center, call (530) 823-2364. A PPAC Website will be available soon.

**Artist’s painting chosen for coffee sleeves**

Gayle Rappaport-Weiland’s watercolor painting “Window to the World” has been selected by BriteVision Media to decorate 100,000 coffee sleeves to be distributed nationwide. Also, the painting was chosen to be used in 40 Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, coffee houses to promote an art tour in those Twin Cities.

The artist signed coffee sleeves for visitors at the opening of her show at Studio 5 on August 26. The show, at 510 Oak St., Roseville, runs through September 4.
Galleries

Roseville


*September 11 – October 30:* 2nd Annual Children’s Open Art Show, “Exclusively Young Expressions.” Jurors: Elma Jella and Barbara Blabon, artists and art teachers. Sponsored by the Sacramento Bee. Opening reception and awards ceremony during 3rd Saturday Art Tour, September 20, 6:30 – 9 p.m. The Art House Children’s Gallery, 424 Oak Street in Roseville (916) 783-4117

*September 16 – October 3:* Splash Continued, featuring artists from Roseville Chamber of Commerce’s Splash event.


*Ongoing:* 3rd Saturday Art Tour. Free art viewing and Open House every Third Saturday of the month, 6:30 – 9 p.m., in participating galleries: 405 Gallery, 405 Vernon Street; The Art House Children’s Gallery, 424 Oak Street.; Studio 5 Gallery, 510 Oak Street; and 2237 Gallery, 2237 Douglas Boulevard; Stonehorse Gallery, 1426 E. Roseville Parkway; and Triple Vision Art, 6661 Stanford Ranch Road, Suite E, Rocklin. Maps available at all galleries and at the Roseville Arts Center. (916) 780-7827.

Rocklin

*Through September 18:* Acrylics by Tom Fillbrown. Colorful, rich, powerful work by a Sierra College graphic design instructor. Reception and artist’s talk Wed., Sept. 3, 5 – 7 p.m. Ridley Gallery, Sierra College. (916) 789-2873.


Lincoln

*Through September 20:* Kathleen Curtis, Earth Sculpture. In the show “Earth and Spirit,” Curtis’s spirited sculptures of beasts, godesses, and other mystical beings are made of earth and acrylic resins on welded or hand-built armatures. Reception September 5, 6 – 8 p.m. Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation, 540 F St. (916) 645-9713, www.lincolnarts.org

*Auburn*

*Through September 12:* The Farley Family, Mixed Media. Wood sculptures and boxes by Jim Farley; works in fused glass and jewelry by Linda Farley; photos and paintings by their daughter Leah, and drawings by son Aaron. Auburn City Hall Gallery, 1225 Lincoln Way. (530) 823-3245.


*September 1 – 30:* “What’s Going On Here,” the Studio Artists at The Arts Building, the first such exhibit of in-house artists since the building was redesigned last year. J. Randall Smith, non-traditional interpretive ‘Kraku’ sculpture; Keith Sutter, photography; Sandy Wiyhaway, earth fabric and fiber primal images; Reif Erickson, pastels; Stan Padilla, lapis series paintings and handcrafted jewelry; Linda Green, introspective acrylic paintings; Merridee J. Smith and B. C. Brooks, luminous dye painting on silk. The cooperative atmosphere and camaraderie show through in this collection of recent works by the artists with working space in The Arts Building, 808 Lincoln Way. (530) 885-2787.


*Through October 7:* Mixed Media Exhibit by Placeer School for Adults Art Teachers. Sonja Hamilton, watercolors; Steve Coverston, drawing; Barbara Roth, drawing/painting animals; Marilyn Krueger, handcrafted cards; Bruce Friederich, wood turning; Gary Graham, oil/ acrylics: Mark Pietz, broom making; Linda Pietz, baskets, gourds, hats; Jennifer Lile, fabric woven baskets, wire sculpture. At Shiloh Center, 905 Lincoln Way. (530) 878-4708.


*September – October:* Art Can Heal. Art in a variety of media chosen...
for its healing qualities. Work by area artists and students from local schools. Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital hall galleries. (530) 389-8504.


October: “Getting There II, the Art of Transportation.” Open House with antique cars, live music, open winery; date TBA. Placer Arts League at Gallery One, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. (916) 663-1211.

October: Autumn Arts Studios Tour Show. A preview show including the 80 artists participating in the 10 Annual Autumn Art Studios Tour (Sat. & Sun., Nov. 8 – 9) At The Arts Building, 808 Lincoln Way. (530) 885-2787.


Granite Bay


Colfax

September 11: Group Show at The Rainbow, a Gallery of Art & Music. Reception 6 – 8 p.m. 46 N. Main St., Second Floor, Historic Colfax. (530) 346-6906. www.therainbowcompany.com

September 27: Art Reception. Group art show and live music, 6 – 8 p.m. The Rainbow Gallery of Art & Music, 46 N. Main St., Second Floor, Historic Colfax. (530) 346-6906. www.therainbowcompany.com

October 9: Art Reception. Group art show and live music, 6 – 8 p.m. The Rainbow Gallery of Art & Music, 46 N. Main St., Second Floor, Historic Colfax. (530) 346-6906. www.therainbowcompany.com


North Tahoe/Truckee


Fusion at 808

September 11: Blues

Two seatings, 6 & 8 p.m.

THE ARTS BUILDING

808 Lincoln Way, Auburn

Reservations advised.

(530) 885-5670

Music by drummer Jimmy Robinson & Friends

Outside Placer County


Through September 7: Mother Lode National 37th Annual Art Exhibition. At Our House Defines Art Gallery, Market Place at Town Center, El Dorado Hills. (530) 626-3862.

September 7 – November 16: Gillian Hodge Outdoor Memorial Sculpture Exhibit. An exhibition of work by students and emerging artists. Sierra College Campus, Grass Valley. Awards reception Sept. 7, 5 – 7 p.m. (530) 274-5300.


September 13 – October 6: Marty Gessler: Paintings and Drawings. Reception 6 – 9 p.m., Sept. 13. At the Barton Gallery, 1723 I Street, Sacramento. (916) 443-4025.


Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento

Through September 14: Just Another Poster? Chicano Graphic Arts in California. More than 100 works examining the profound role of graphic art in the Chicano civil rights movement.


Through November 9: Remembering the Family Farm: 150 Years of American Prints.

Continuing: European Painting from the Collection, European Galleries. Introduces museum visitors to the subjects and styles represented by our European collection; includes a small selection of decorative arts rarely seen on display.

Continuing: Early California Painting Collection. Demonstrates the
artistic vitality of Northern California through the 1870s. The Crocker’s collection includes works from Europe, North America, and Asia, dating from the 15th century to the present. The museum also offers special exhibitions, educational programs, workshops, concerts, and events. For a complete list of activities for all ages call (916) 264-5157 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org 216 O St., Sacramento.

Rocklin
September 28: Prism Concert. Continuous music by musicians and singers placed throughout the theatre. At the Dietrich Theatre, Sierra College, 2 p.m. (916) 789-2920

October 5: Chamber Music Alive! Six chamber musicians presenting works by Mozart, Franck, and Mendelssohn. Part of a three-concert series presented at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Sacramento, and at the Dietrich Theatre at Sierra College. At Sierra College, Sunday, 3 p.m. For series details and discounts available, call (916) 789-2920 or visit www.sierracollege.edu/events/music.html

October 12: Fall Choral Concert. At the Dietrich Theatre, Sierra College, 2 p.m. (916) 789-2920.

October 19: Fall Band Concert. At the Dietrich Theatre, Sierra College, 2 p.m. (916) 789-2920.

Lincoln
October 11: North of Disorder performing at McBean Park during the Art & Craft Festival, 12 – 3 p.m. Presented by Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation. (916) 645-9713.

Auburn Art Walk — the 10th Season
Second Thursdays
in April, June, August & October
April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9
6 – 9 p.m.
Downtown, Old Town and around town Auburn
Local and regional artists showing and selling their work at restaurants, galleries, shops, and public buildings.
Live music in several locations, provided by the Auburn Arts Commission
Free admission; free shuttle bus
Sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County
Brochures with maps available at the Arts Council office, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn
For more information call (530) 885-5670.

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Auburn
September 11: JAZZ at 808, featuring Blues. The last in jazz series featuring well-known drummer Jimmy Robinson and a different group of his outstanding musician friends at each jam session. Two seatings, 6 & 8 p.m. Reservations are encouraged. At the Arts Building, 808 Lincoln Way. Sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County. (530) 885-5670.

September 19: Wood’s Tea Company, a musical group of four performing bluegrass, Celtic tunes, sea chanteys, and folk songs on dozens of different instruments. For audiences of all ages. Presented by Auburn Community Concerts Assn. At Place High School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. For season and individual concert ticket information, (530) 887-1624.

October 5: Four-Hand Piano Concert presented by Barbara Alvis and Binns Melander, performing works by Brahms, Moszkowski, and the premiere of two new four-hand piano suites by Melander. Also included, for solo piano: “Sonata No. 3, the Folk” and arrangements of Joni Mitchell songs arranged and performed by Melander. At the Beecher Room, Auburn-Placer County Library, 2 p.m. Admission free. (530) 885-3571.

October 17 & 19: Auburn Symphony opens the season with “Classic and Romantic,” a concert including Mozart’s exquisite concerto for winds and orchestra, and Sibelius’ passionate Romantic masterpiece, Symphony No. 2 in D Major. Friday, 8:15 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. For season and individual concert tickets, (530) 823-6683. www.auburnsymphony.com

Colfax
September 6: CD Release Party, for smooth jazz saxophonist Garrett Perkins’ CD, “Can You Hear Me.” 7 – 9 p.m. $10 or $20 with CD. The Rainbow Gallery of Art & Music, 46 N. Main St., Historic Colfax. (530) 346-6906. www.therainbowcompany.com

Outside Placer County
September 13: Folk harpist Christine Bonner in concert. Harp, guitar, percussion, vocals, and strings combine in a performance of everything from flamenco music to lullabies. The Sacramento premiere of Bonner’s second CD, Compañeros, released earlier this year. Presented by the Rainbow Music Company at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento. 8 p.m. For ticket information, (530) 346-8360 or www.unclerob.com

November 1: Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra’s 7th Season Opening “Paradise and More.” Brahms’ Violin Concerto with guest...
Museums

Roseville

Roseville Telephone Co. Museum, 106 Vernon Street
With exhibits detailing the history of telephone communications and of the Roseville Telephone Company, the museum offers a portrayal of an often-overlooked aspect of the past. Displays include old-style switchboards and telephones; models range to present day. (916) 786-1621.

Maidu Interpretive Center—Indian Museum
Maidu Interpretive Center— Indian Museum and Nature Learning Center offers tours of the ancient Nisenan (southern Maidu) village site Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., featuring over 300 bedrock mortars, petroglyphs and evidence of thousands of years of occupation by the Maidu. Animal Spirits exhibit runs through summer 2003. Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. $4/adult; $3/child; $12 family of four. 1960 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. (916) 772-4242. www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Rocklin

Rocklin History Museum, 3895 Rocklin Rd.
Opened in June 2002, the museum houses a history timeline, Whitney Family items, Indian artifacts, quarry tools and railroad items, Ruben Ruhkala paintings, and a Rocklin Jubilee display, as well as many historic photos. Also on display are a quarry photo supergraphic, a quarry layout with a description of quarry operation, geology exhibits, and Rocklin’s Centennial quilt. The architectural style of the small Rocklin homes is reflected in the design of the museum. (916) 624-2355.

Penryn

Griffith Quarry Museum, Taylor and Rock Spring roads
Griffith Quarry’s history dates back to its founding in 1864. The quarry was a major supplier of granite for many of California’s buildings, including the State Capitol in Sacramento. The museum houses artifacts reflecting the history of the granite industry in the region. Three miles of nature trails offer views of old quarry sites. (916) 624-2355.

Auburn

Placer County Museum, 101 Maple Street
On display are exhibits on the Placer County Courthouse, a unique set of Pleistocene animal remains, and the Pate Native American Collection of over 400 items. All located on the first floor, Placer County Courthouse. Docents offer free walking tours of Old Town Auburn on the first and third Saturdays of every month. (530) 889-6500.

Bernhard Museum Complex, 291 Auburn-Folsom Road
This complex was built as an inn called Travelers Rest in 1851. The house, one of the oldest wooden structures in Placer County, was added in 1868. Now restored, the house is furnished with late Victorian pieces. Also located here is an 1874 winery, one of the first in the state, a reconstructed carriage barn, and Gallery One, home of the Placer Arts League. Docent tours, permanent and seasonal exhibitions. (530) 889-6500.

Gold Country Museum, 1273 High Street
This museum chronicles the rich history of gold mining in the region. Exhibits include gold panning demonstrations, a walk through a man shaft, an operational stamp mill model, and displays showing the lifestyle of gold country residents during the Gold Rush. At the Gold Country Fairgrounds. (530) 889-6500.

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center, at Sacramento Street and Brewery Lane, Old Town Auburn
This historic building is almost completely restored and will soon be open to the public. The original temple altar is preserved in this Chinese house of worship; on display are artifacts representative of the lives of the Chinese people during the Gold Rush. Open by appointment. (530) 823-2613.

Dutch Flat

Golden Drift Museum, 32820 Main Street
The colorful history of the “Golden Triangle” — Dutch Flat, Gold run, Alta/Towle — is shown in exhibits depicting boom days of hydraulic mining, the rise of the county’s timber industry, the coming of the transcontinental railroad, and the growth of communities. Tour the town and all its historic buildings. (530) 889-6500.

Truckee/North Lake Tahoe

Gatekeepers Cabin Museum, 130 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City
The museum houses artifacts of Lake Tahoe history, including pansed history displays, illustrated pioneer stories, hundreds of historical items, and a research library. One wing contains the Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum, filled with a collection of more than 800 rare baskets from 85 tribes, and collections of Indian dolls, and Southwestern pottery. (530) 583-1762.

The Watson Cabin Living Museum, 560 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City
An outstanding, preserved, turn-of-the-century log cabin, built in 1908 by Robert Montgomery Watson, Tahoe City’s first Constable. (530) 583-1762.

Emigrant Trail Museum, 12593 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee
Located in Donner Memorial State Park, this museum focuses on the theme of the Donner Party. A 26-minute movie on the Donner Party is shown on the hour. Other exhibits portray the lives and arts of the Washoe Indians, early explorers, the building of the railroad through the Sierra Nevada, and the early days of Truckee. (530) 582-7892.

Share Your Love of the Arts and Humanities…Forever
Including a charitable bequest to the Arts Council of Placer County in your estate plans is a way that you can say thank you to your family, friends, and community while sharing your love of the Arts and Humanities with future generations.

For more information about a charitable bequest, call the arts council at (530) 885-5670.
**Outsida Placer County**

**Folsom History Museum, 823 Sutter Street, Historic Folsom**
The Folsom and Natomas Historical Societies present "The Legacy of Natomas: A Company Story," an exhibit running at the museum through July 20. With an abundance of photographs, maps, documents and artifacts, the exhibit will explore the complex history of a company born in the chaos of California's Gold Rush and dissolved at the close of the 20th century. (916) 985-2707.

**Events & Festivals**

**Roseville**

**September 20 & 21: One Root Festival,** a celebration of diversity through music, dance, arts, crafts and food. At Royer Park, Roseville. (916)772-2557 or www.oneroot.org

**September – October: Maidu Interpretive Center Events, Live Animal Shows** on Sept. 6 (Incredible Insects) and Sept. 13 (Creatures of the Night), Saturdays 2 – 3 p.m. **Campfire Programs** on Sept. 5, Oct. 10, and Nov. 7, 7 – 8 p.m. Singing, a presentation, and marshmallow roasting around the fire. **Stories in the Night,** Oct. 25, 6 – 8 p.m. Along the trail through the Maidu Historic Site, meet storytellers and hear their tales of adventure and fun; meet back at the campfire for s'mores and popcorn around the fire. Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr. (916) 772-4242 or www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

**Lincoln**

**Ongoing: Tea in Crimson.** Elegant Victorian afternoon teas every Tuesday, 1 – 5 p.m. in the lavish Gladding McBean Dining Rooms. Presented by Beermann’s. Reservations at (916) 645-2577.

**October 25: Art & Agriculture: A Day of Celebration.** A festival to build support for local artists and farmers during the pre-Holiday season, and to celebrate the lovely open spaces of Placer County. 2 – 7 p.m. 2 – 6 p.m., sales of art and agricultural products, pony rides and games. Living History scenes with local school children, prizes for best quilt, jam, pie, painting, sculpture; 5:30 p.m., BBQ; tri-tip, ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, pies for dessert; 6 – 7 p.m. Country Folk Music. The Old Fruitvale School, rural Lincoln. (916) 645-3517.

**Auburn**

**September 12 – 14: Sierra Blues Benefest & Crafts Fair.** Benefit for primary beneficiary, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. More than 100 vendors; three stages featuring national and regional blues artists. Crafts, novelties, and food. Old Town Auburn. (530) 268-9166.

**September 20: Auburn’s Black & White Ball.** Downtown Auburn, 8:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. Eight bands, food from local restaurants. (530) 885-5616.

**September 24: The Art of Tea & Fashion.** Roseville Arts Center’s annual High Tea, an elegant tradition offering a blend of conventional goodies and modern treats. Starting at 11:30 a.m. Featuring fashions by Chicos, Weekenders, & Simply Striking. Timber Creek Ballroom, Sun City Roseville, 7050 Del Webb Blvd. Tickets at Roseville Arts Center, (916) 785-1117.

**October 4: Auburn Wine Festival.** The inaugural event showcases food and wine from Placer, Nevada, and El Dorado counties. Wineries, restaurants, caterers and the Auburn business community has teamed with Placer County Wine & Grape Assn. to present the event, in Old Town and Downtown Auburn, 2 – 5 p.m. Registration limited to first 1,000 paid participants; $30 per person. Visit www.carpevinouaburn.com or call (530) 888-8866.

**October 9: Auburn Art Walk.** Local and regional artists showing works in venues throughout Downtown Auburn, Old Town, and around town Auburn. Live music at several locations. Free admission; free shuttle bus. 6 – 9 p.m. Sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County, 808 Lincoln Way. For brochure and details, (530) 885-5670.

**October 18: Auburn Community Festival.** ScareCrow Contest, Giant Pumpkin Competition, costume parade, pony rides, kids games, food and music. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Auburn Recreation Park 123 Recreation Drive.

**October 19: Fall Antiques Street Fair.** Old Town Auburn. (530) 823-3856.

**October 19: 9th Annual Broadway Benefit for the Boys & Girls Club of Auburn.** Starring Diane Ketchie and Raymond Saar, seasoned performers on stage, film, and television. Sunday evening, 4 – 7 p.m. For details, (530) 885-2455, ext. 22.


**Colfax**


**Truckee/North Lake Tahoe**

**September 1: Splendor of the Sierra Art Show, Northstar, Truckee.** (530) 562-1010.

**September 7 & 8: Truckee Railroad Days.** Train displays, memorabilia, vendor fair. Truckee. (530) 546-1221.

**September 26 – 28: 18th Annual Lake Tahoe Autumn Food & Wine Festival, this year integrating the tastes of Mexico. Golf tournament, grape stomp, garlic-peeling contest, wine and cheese tastings, presentations, cooking classes, cook-offs, celebrity chef dinner, chocolate artistry, live auction, marketplace, and the Culinary Competition and Grand Tasting, with inspired pairings of more than 35 of Tahoe’s top chefs with premium California wineries. Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley. Reservations at 800-824-6348 or www.mytahoevacation.com

**October 12: Truckee River Day.** Celebrate and honor the river. Truckee. (530) 587-2757.

**November 8 – 13: Art Quilt Tahoe, a study conference featuring a faculty of 14 well-known fiber artists. Conference includes accommodations at The Hyatt at Incline, gourmet meals, faculty presentations, quilt exhibit, and quilt shop. For details, call (530) 887-0600 or visit www.artquilttahoe.com

**Ongoing: North Shore Poets Open Mike & Feature Readers.** Every third Thursday, 7 – 9 p.m., North Tahoe Art Center, 380 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City. (530) 581-2787.

**Outside Placer County**

**Through September: 23rd Annual Antique Quilt and Vintage Clothing Show, “Travel Back in Time with Quilts.” More than 40 quilts on display, including an appliquéd Morning Glory. Also, vintage fashions and accessories. Folsom History Museum, 823 Sutter St., Folsom. (916) 985-2457. www.folsomhistorymuseum.org

**September 15 – October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month.** Concerts, lectures, dance performances, exhibitions, presentations. At California State University Sacramento. (916) 278-7241.
October 31: **DeadBeats Halloween at Miners Foundry.** An all-ages concert with scary surprises in every corner. Starting at 8 p.m. Early evening activities for children. Miners Foundry, Nevada City. (530) 265-5040.

**Trips**

October 21: **Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.** Deadline to register **September 16.** Experience the beautifully re-opened museum in the Beaux Arts building. No host lunch at Union Square. Sponsored by Roseville Arts Center. (916) 783-4117.

November 19: **Mondavi Center for the Arts & Crocker Art Museum.** Deadline to register **October 27.** Enjoy a docent-led tour of the new state-of-the-art Mondavi Center. No host lunch in downtown Davis, then on to the Crocker for a self-guided tour of its many galleries. Sponsored by Roseville Arts Center. (916) 783-4117.

**Film**

**Roseville**

September – October: **Roseville Historical Society at the Movies.** Free classic movies every Thurs. & Sun., 1:30 p.m. 557 Lincoln St., Old Roseville. For schedule, call (916) 773-5003.

**Auburn**

September 6: **Silver Screen Classic Movies: Sunrise,** starring Janet Gaynor. Shows at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Beecher Rm., Auburn-Placer County Library, 350 Nevada St. Presented by the library. Suggested donation $5 general admission, $4 seniors and students. (530) 878-7938.

October 4: **Silver Screen Classic Movies: Tight Little Island,** Shows at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Beecher Rm., Auburn-Placer County Library, 350 Nevada St. Presented by the library. Suggested donation $5 general admission, $4 seniors and students. (530) 878-7938.

November 1: **Silver Screen Classic Movies: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,** starring Fredric March and Miriam Hopkins. Shows at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Beecher Rm., Auburn-Placer County Library, 350 Nevada St. Presented by the library. Suggested donation $5 general admission, $4 seniors and students. (530) 878-7938.

**Theatre**

**Roseville**

September 5 – October 4: **Nunsense II, The Second Coming.** The Little Sisters of Hoboken are back on stage. At the Magic Circle Repertory Theatre, 241 Vernon St. (916) 782-1777, www.mcircle.org


November 7 – 16: **Mystery at Greenfingers,** by J. B. Priestly. Presented by the Sierra College Drama Department at the Dietrich Theatre. Nov. 7, 8, 14 & 15 at 8 p.m.; Nov. 9 & 16 at 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. Director’s Discussion at 5:30 p.m. (916) 789-2920.

**Outside Placer County**

Through September 6: **Two for the Seasaw,** a romantic comedy. Presented by the T Street Players at the T Street Theatre, 4623 T Street, Sacramento. (916) 264-8890

Through September 21: **Sierra Shakespeare Festival.** A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Merry Wives of Windsor. Presented by the Foothill Theatre Company at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. (530) 265-8587 or toll-free 888-730-8587.


October 30 – November 9: **New Voices of the Wild West.** Fifth year of staged readings of four new plays chronicling stories of the American West, past and present. At the Center for the Arts, Grass Valley. (530) 265-8587 or toll-free 888-730-8587.
Classes & Workshops

Roseville

September 28 – 29. Plein Air Painting with Margot Comer. Painting outdoors teaches students to make quick observations and record them in paint. The study of lights and darks is a secret that cannot be seen the same way in photographs or from memory. Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., $85. Studio 5 Gallery, 510 Oak Street, Roseville (916) 771-8955

October 18 – 19. Workshop: Painting the Color You See with P.K. King. This accomplished Southern California artist has received numerous awards. Her work is noted for her treatment of color, skill, technique, and imagination. Her enthusiasm is irresistible. Students will learn new ways to see and use color in a seascape composition. Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., $85. Studio 5 Gallery, 510 Oak Street, Roseville (916) 771-8955

September – October: Cultural Skills and Nature Hikes. Call for listings. Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr. (916) 772-4242. www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Ongoing: Painting in Oils and Acrylics with Margot Comer. Adults learn about paint, brushes, mediums and other painting tools in oils and acrylics. Drawing, composition, color and value are taught as they are used to start, work and finish successful canvases. A variety of methods introduced, a lively exchange of ideas encouraged. Tues. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mon. and Thurs. 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Location: Studio 5 Gallery, 510 Oak Street, Roseville (916) 771-8955
GALLERY SHOWS, ARTISTS’ STUDIOS, CLASSES

808 Lincoln Way, Auburn
(530) 885-2787

THE ARTS BUILDING
**Arts Calendar**


**Lincoln**

September 20 – 21: Gladding McBean Photography Workshop with Gene Kennedy. Photograph the historic Gladding McBean pottery, in Lincoln, with the guidance of Gene Kennedy, photographer, teacher, and former managing editor of View Camera and Camera Arts magazines; Ken Templeton, photographer, teacher, and custom black-and-white printer; and other accomplished photographer/teachers. Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Participants will be allowed to photograph in the most interesting areas of the pottery, where light and subject matter are most compelling. Participants can register for one, two, or four days (four days would include a March 2004 workshop). One day: $135; two days, $245; special price for four days, $375. A clinic on lighting and exposure will be offered on Friday, Sept. 19, the evening preceding the workshop. For more information or to register contact Gene Kennedy at (916) 645-0781 or email gkennedy@psyber.com.

**Outside Placer County**

September 25: Let’s Paint a Barn with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 6 – 9:30 p.m. Lake of the Pines. (530) 268-3585.

October 2, 9 & 16: Glass Fusing Classes with Diane J'Wood. Discussion of the properties of glass and dichroic glass; glass preparation and layering. Four styles of glass disciplines taught, with students making six pieces of fused class. Class will include instructions on running a kiln. 6 – 9 p.m. American River Extension College, (916) 484-8643.

November 6, 13 & 20: Glass Mold Making and Slumping Classes with Diane J’Wood. Prerequisite: a Fused Glass class. Students will prepare their own molds and slump glass into their molds. Includes instruction in how to run a kiln for slumping glass, and a review of different forms of glass molds. 6 – 9 p.m. American River Extension College, (916) 484-8643.

Ongoing: Classes with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. For full schedule and sign-up information, visit www.art.grappaport.com

Ongoing: Color Intensive and Landscape Workshops at the School of Light and Color. Taught by master artists. 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks. For class schedule, (916) 966-7517 or sarback@lightandcolor.com or www.lightandcolor.com

**Publicize YOUR Arts Event**

Send your CALENDAR listings, along with photos — black and white or color — to Perspectives, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603

Fax to (530) 885-0348 or email to Perspectives@PlacerArts.org

**Deadline for the November/ December 2003 issue: September 19**

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**Arts for Children**

**Roseville**

September 10 – October 1 & October 8 – 29 & October 28 – November 18: Tots in Nature Classes. Session 1: Wednesdays, 10 – 11:15 p.m. Session 2: Wednesdays, 10 – 11:15 a.m. Session 3: Tuesdays, 1 – 2:15 p.m. All sessions $39 per child. Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr.(916) 772-4242 or www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

September 11: Let’s Paint a Lighthouse with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Roseville Parks & Recreation. (916) 774-5950.

September 13: Archery Class with Maya Bow Club Instructors. Sat., 3 – 5 p.m $15 per person. Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr.(916) 772-4242 or www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

October 2: Watercolor Floral with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. Plastic Wrap/Monoprint Technique. 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Roseville Parks & Recreation. (916) 774-5950.

October 25: Stories in the Night. A Halloween alternative for families, with stories around the trail followed by s’mores and popcorn around the campfire. 6 – 8 p.m. . Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr.(916) 772-4242 or www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

November 12: Beginners’ Watercolor Workshop with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 6 – 10 p.m. Roseville Parks & Recreation. (916) 774-5950.

Ongoing: Maidu Interpretive Center Children’s Classes, Workshops, and Events. For listings, contact Maidu Interpretive Center, 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr.(916) 772-4242 or www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Ongoing: Fun with Art, Margot Comer. Ages 6 – 12. Themed sessions on animals, people, plants, objects, or events. Classes explore a variety of skills: drawing and painting, color theory, composition and value study, all in a wide variety of mediums. Wed. 3:45 – 5 p.m. $15. Studio 5 Gallery, 510 Oak Street, Roseville (916) 771-8955. www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Ongoing: Roseville Parks & Recreation Cultural Arts Classes for Children. For a full schedule, call (916) 774-5220 or visit www.roseville.ca.us. Parks & Recreation department, Activity Guide.

**Rocklin**

September 27: Watercolor Workshop for Beginners with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 1 – 5 p.m. Sierra College-Community Foundation. (916) 781-0590.

October 11: Watercolor Workshop with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. Focus: Flowers, stems and leaves. 1 – 5 p.m. Sierra College-Community Foundation. (916) 781-0590.

October 16: Watercolor Pen & Ink Still Life with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Rocklin High School. (916) 781-0590.


November 13: Watercolor Greeting Cards & Gift Tags with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland. 6 – 9:30 p.m., Rocklin High School. (916) 781-0590.
**Ongoing: City of Rocklin Community Education.** A variety of cultural arts classes for children. (916) 632-4100.

**Ongoing: Backstage Hands with Connie Omans.** Ages 13 – 18. High School students learn technical skills while earning community service hours, working with spotlight, sound special effects, and stage props. Class is free. Wed. – Sun. 7 – 8:30 p.m. Finnish Temperance Hall, 4000 Rocklin Rd. (916) 632-4100.

**Loomis**

**Ongoing: Hands-On Art History (ages 6 – 8) and Creative Process Through Art (ages 9 – 11) with Terri Kent-Enborg.** Students will explore the Elements of Art and/or the cultural relevance of Art History in a process-oriented environment where each child’s creative thinking process will be encouraged and celebrated. Private tutoring/lessons available. At Creativity Central. (916) 652-4538 or tkenborg@vfr.net

**Ongoing: McLaughlin Studios of Music** offers a complete program of individualized music instruction in flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, piano, guitar, bass, percussion, violin, cello and voice. Jazz and youth symphony classes. (916) 652-6377.

**Auburn**

**October 14: Watercolor Greeting Cards & Gift Tags with Gayle Rappaport-Weiland.** 4 – 6 p.m., Auburn Parks & Recreation. (530) 885-8461.

**Ongoing: CLAYart Classes with Larry Ortiz.** After-school Kids’ Program. Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 – 5 p.m. The Arts Building, 808 Lincoln Way. (530) 885-2797.

**Colfax**

**September 16 – December 9: Watercolor Painting with Sonja Hamilton.** Emphasis: Color for the Watercolorist. Tuesdays 6 – 9 p.m., Colfax High School. Place School for Adults, (530) 885-8585.

**Truckee/North Tahoe**


**Ongoing: Music & More Arts Academy, music, voice, dance and drama classes.** Classes for all ages in most instruments taught by master teachers. For schedule, (530) 885-0594 or www.musarts.com

**Calls to Artists**

**Deadline September 8.** “War Stories,” showing Nov. 9 – Jan. 1, 2004, at A Shenere Velt Gallery, Los Angeles. Submit slides of up to three wall-hung works in any media (except ceramics and jewelry) that speak to the theme of War Stories. Entry fee: $20 non-refundable. For info, call (510) 552-2007 or email circle@circlesocial.org

**Deadline September 15.** UnitedPlanet.org Calling for the voices of every nation to submit poetry, fiction & creative nonfiction addressing cross-cultural understanding, friendship, world unity & peace. No entry fee. 1st prize: $500 and publication. Submit in native tongue and English by email to voices@unitedplanet.org

**Deadline September 12.** Yuba City Cultural Celebration, Sat., Oct. 18, Yuba City Town Center. Looking for vendors of unique, ethnically diverse arts and crafts. Contact the Yuba City Parks and Rec Dept., (530) 822-4654.

**Deadline September 22.** Auburn Printers, Inc., in Auburn, is seeking art for its high-quality 2004 art calendar, in a 9”x12” horizontal format printed in four-color process. Eligible are Placer County artists working in any medium. Submit high-quality digital color photos or scans w/pertinent details to Merrill Kagan-Weston at merrillk@auburnprint.com or mail to Auburn Printers, Inc., 13020 Earhart Ave., Auburn, CA 95602. (530) 885-9674.

**October 1.** The California Council for the Humanities is seeking applications for its California Documentary Project. an awards program for film, video, radio, and photography documentary projects. Grants of up to $20,000 are available. For guidelines, visit www.californiastories.org/guidelines/guidelines_ca_doc.htm The council also offers awards of up to $5,000 under the California Story Fund; for guidelines, visit www.californiastories.org/guidelines/guidelines_ca_storyfund.htm

**Deadline October 4:** LA PETITE XI, 2003. Small Format Competition, 2 & 3D, entries $10 each/3/$25. $2200 Awards. Produced by Alder Gallery, Coburg OR. Open to North American artists. Prospectus: SASE to Alder Gallery, Box 8517, Coburg, OR 97408. Contact (541) 342-6411 or pet@alderart.com or visit www.alderart.com

**Deadline October 18.** 7th Annual Auburn Community Festival ScareCrow Contest. Prizes $2,125. Open and youth categories. Minimum height four feet, maximum height 10 feet; maximum width
10 feet, maximum depth eight feet. Erect on site at Auburn Recreation Park. $5 entry fee, free t-shirt with each entry. For entry form, call (530) 887-0609.

Ongoing. “Rear Window, Night Moves,” San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art. Open to all. Media: Sculpture that activates the space. For pros, SASE to Cathy Kimball, San Jose ICA, 451 S. 1st St., San Jose, CA 95223. (408) 283-8157 or info@sjica.org. www.sjica.org

Ongoing. California Society of Printmakers, Portfolio Review. Open to all. Media: Printmaking. Fee: $40. Juried. For pros, SASE to James Groleau, 1167 Hayes St., #2, SF, CA 94117. (415) 905-4296. caprintmakers@hotmail.com or visit www.caprintmakers.com

Ongoing. The Rainbow, a Gallery of Art & Music is seeking teachers for its 2004 season. The newly remodeled gallery will host Personal Development classes for children and adults. Send class proposal to P.O. Box 454, Colfax, CA 95713. For details, call (530) 346-6906 or visit www.therainbowcompany.com

Ongoing. For singers for the Sierra Gold Chorus, member of Sweet Adelines, Int. Learn to sing barbershop harmony. Women of all ages welcome. Rehearsals Mondays, 7 p.m., Burbank Hall, Dewitt Center, Auburn. (916) 663-2105 or (530) 885-4202.

Open Call. To exhibiting artists: Great exposure in an historic Auburn Victorian, East-West Galleries at Latitudes Restaurant, 130 Maple Street in Auburn. Artists are invited to submit inquiries for the 2004 exhibit calendar. For details, call art curator Rosie Stilwell, (530) 885-1121.

Open Call. For accomplished artists who would like to teach. Sierra College Community Education is recruiting new instructors for its ever-changing, growing program. No special degrees required. To request a class proposal, call (916) 781-0590.

FYI: www.Artdeadline.com holds a comprehensive listing of job opportunities, grants, percent for art, competitions, and more for artists. There is a small subscription rate for the services.

FYI: ArtistsRegister.com showcases thousands of visual artists nationwide. Developed and managed by the nonprofit Western States Arts Federation, this membership-based online community features a fully searchable database of art and artists. See samples of artists’ work, along with their bios, contact details and artistic statements. ArtistsRegister.com

Thank You
to our new, renewed and business members, patrons and affiliates — and, of course, our public partners

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Donna Fay Allen
Gary P. & Colleen Anderson
Patrice de Avila
Diane Clark
Claudia Cunningham
David & Rochelle Pears-Dickson
Alice M. Dowdlin
Summer Edington
Fred Ekman
Paul & Lynne Fee
Carol Fish
Glenda P. Gonazles
Michael Guberman
Jane A. Hamilton
Chris Jonas & Family
Randall & Vicky Jungers
Tad Kitada
Deb & Jim Knox
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Placer Art League
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Sierra County Arts Council
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City of Roseville
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Metropolitan Arts Partnership
National Endowment for the Arts
Placer County Office of Education
Placer Union High School District
Western Placer Unified School District
On Possessing Beauty

A writer acts on John Ruskin’s travel advice

by Alain De Botton
excerpted from The Art of Travel

Among all the places that we go to but don’t look at properly or that leave us indifferent, a few occasionally stand out with an impact that overwhelms us and forces us to take heed. They possess a quality that might clumsily be called beauty. This may not involve prettiness nor any of the obvious features that guidebooks associate with beauty spots; having recourse to the word might be just another way of saying that we like a place.

There was much beauty on my travels. In Barbados, on the eastern shore, I looked out across a dark-violet sea that stretched unhindered to the coasts of Africa. The island suddenly seemed small and vulnerable, its theatrical vegetation of wild pink flowers and shaggy trees a touching protest against the sober monotony of the sea. In the Lake District, I took in the view at dawn from our window in the Mortal Man [hotel]: hills of soft Silurian rock covered in fine green grass above which a layer of mist was hovering. The hills undulated as though they formed part of the backbone of a giant beast that had lain down to sleep and might at any point awake and stand up several miles high, shaking off oak trees and hedgerows like pieces of fluff caught on its green felt jacket.

A dominant impulse on encountering beauty is to wish to hold on to it, to possess it and give it weight in one’s life. There is an urge to say, ‘I was here, I saw this and it mattered to me.’

But beauty is fugitive, being frequently found in places to which we may never return or else resulting from rare conjunctions of season, light and weather. How then to possess it?

John Ruskin was born in London in February 1819. A central part of his work was

“Slide Rock,” Sedona, Arizona, watercolor by Patty Pieropan Dong.
to pivot around the question of how we can possess the beauty of places. Ruskin's interest in beauty and in its possession led him to five central conclusions. First, beauty was the result of a number of complex factors that affected the mind both psychologically and visually. Second, humans had an innate tendency to respond to beauty and to desire to possess it. Third, there were many lower expressions of this desire of possession (including, as we have seen, buying souvenirs and carpets, carving one's name on a pillar and taking photographs). Fourth, there was only one way to possess beauty properly, and that was by understanding it, by making oneself conscious of the factors (psychological and visual) responsible for it. And last, the most effective means of pursuing this conscious understanding was by attempting to describe beautiful places through art, by writing about or drawing them, irrespective of whether one happened to have any talent for doing so.

Encouraged by Ruskin's democratic vision of drawing, I tried my hand at it during my travels. As to what I should draw, it seemed sensible to be guided by the same desire to possess beauty that had previously led me to take up my camera. In Ruskin's words, 'Your art is to be the praise of something that you love. It may only be the praise of a shell or a stone.'

I decided to draw the bedroom window at the Mortal Man because it was to hand and seemed attractive on a bright autumn morning. The result was a predictable yet instructive disaster. The very act of drawing an object, however badly, swiftly takes the drawer from the woolly sense of what the object looks like to a precise awareness of its component parts and particularities. 'A window' thus reveals itself to be made up of a succession of ledges holding the glass in place, a system of ridges and indentations (the hotel was in the Georgian style), twelve panes that at a glance seem square but are in fact mildly though importantly rectangular, and white paint that is not really white but rather ash-grey, brown-grey, yellow, pinky-mauve or mild green depending on the light and on the relationship between the light and the condition of the underlying wood (in the northwestern edge of the window, for example, a trace of damp gave the paint a pinky tint). Nor, as it turns out, is glass wholly clear, having within it minute imperfections, tiny bubbles or air like those in a frozen fizzy drink; on its surface, moreover, mine was marked with the traces of dried raindrops and the impatient swipes of a window cleaner's cloth. Drawing brutally shows up our previous blindness to the true appearance of things.

Another benefit we may derive from drawing is a conscious understanding of the reasons behind our attraction to certain landscapes and buildings. Through drawing, we may find explanations for our tastes and begin to develop an ‘aesthetic,’ or a capacity to assert judgments about beauty and ugliness. And on the basis of this conscious awareness, more solid memories can be founded. Carving our name on Pompey’s Pillar begins to seem unnecessary. Drawing allows us, in Ruskin’s account, ‘to stay the cloud in its fading, the leaf in its trembling, and the shadows in their changing.’

Not only did Ruskin encourage us to draw during our travels, he also felt we should write, or ‘word-paint,’ as he called it, so as to cement our impressions of beauty. Attractive places typically render us aware of our inadequacies in the area of language. In the Lake District, for example, writing a postcard to a friend, I explained — in some despair and haste — that the scenery was pretty and the weather wet and windy. Ruskin would have ascribed such prose more to laziness than to
incapacity. We are all, he argued, able to turn out adequate word paintings; our failure to do so is the result merely of our not asking ourselves enough questions and not being precise enough in analysing what we have seen and felt. Rather than rest with the idea that a lake is pretty, we must ask ourselves more vigorously, ‘What in particular is attractive about this stretch of water? What are its associations? What might be a better word for it than big?’ The finished product may not be marked by genius, but at least it will have been motivated by a search for authentic representation of an experience.

It was eleven-thirty at night, and I had been driving around the docks for several hours, stopping for coffee at London City Airport. On my way home, I came upon the giant illuminated towers of the West India Dock. Steam was rising from the top of two adjacent towers, and the whole area had been painted with an even, sparse coating of fog. The lights were still on in most floors, and even from a distance, one could see computer terminals, meeting rooms, potted plants and flipcharts inside.

It was a beautiful scene, and along with the impression of beauty came the desire to possess its source — a desire that, to follow Ruskin, only art could properly satisfy.

I began word-painting. Descriptive passages came most readily; the offices were tall; the top of one tower was like a pyramid; it had ruby-red lights on its side; the sky was not black but an orangey-yellow. But because such a factual description seemed of little help to me in pinning down why I found the scene so impressive, I attempted to analyse its beauty in more psychological terms. The power of the scene appeared to be located in the effect of the night and of the fog on the towers. Night drew attention to facets of the offices that were submerged in the day. Lit by the sun, the offices could seem normal, repelling questions as effectively as their windows repelled glances. But night upset this claim to normality, it allowed one to see inside and wonder at how strange, frightening and admirable they were. The offices embodied order and cooperation among thousands, and at the same time regimentation and tedium. A bureaucratic vision of seriousness was undermined, or at least questioned, by the night. One wondered in the darkness what the flip-charts and office terminals were for; not that they were redundant, just that they might be stranger and more dubitable than daylight had allowed us to think.

At the same time, fog ushered in nostalgia. Foggy nights may, like certain smells, carry us back to other times we experienced them. I thought of nights at university, walking home along illuminated playing fields, and of the differences between my life then and my life now, which led to a bittersweet sadness about the difficulties that had beset me then and the precious things that had since been lost to me.

There were bits of paper all over the car. The standard of the word-painting was not far above that of my childlike drawing of an oak tree in the Langdale Valley. But quality was not the point. I had at least attempted to follow one strand of what Ruskin judged to be the twin purposes of art: to make sense of pain and to fathom the sources of beauty.

And, as he had pointed out when presented with a series of misshapen drawings that a group of his pupils had produced on their travels through the English countryside: ‘I believe that the sight is a more important thing than the drawing; and I would rather teach drawing that my pupils may learn to love nature, than teach the looking at nature that they may learn to draw.’

Alain de Botton is the author of How Proust Can Change Your Life and several other books. The Art of Travel was published in 2002 by Pantheon Books.
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