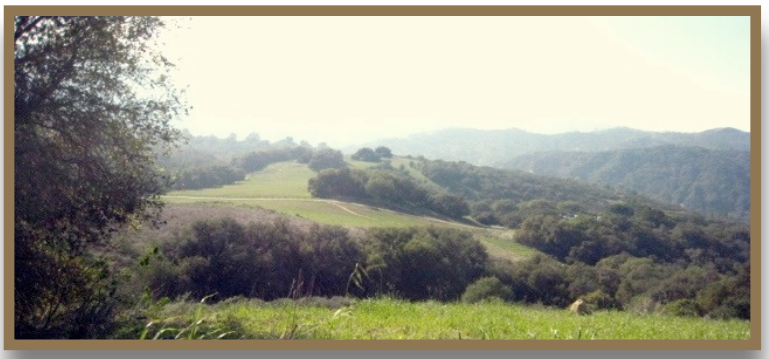
NEWSLETTER

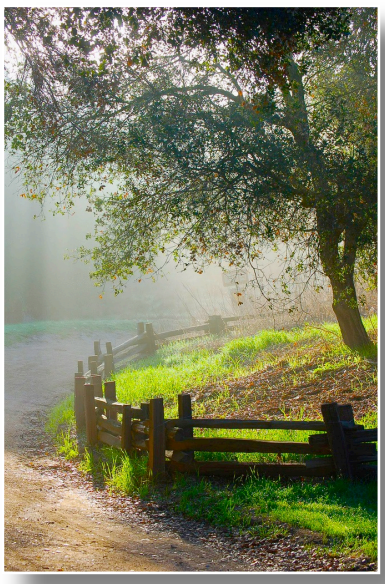
October 2009

VAG proudly announces a paint out at

Topanga State Park



Located in the cliffs and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga State Park features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The park is located entirely within the Los Angeles city limits and is considered the world's largest wild land within the boundaries of a major city. Excellent recreational opportunities for hikers as well as mountain bikers (restricted to fire roads) and equestrians. The park is bound on the south by Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, on the west by Topanga Canyon, and on the east by Rustic Canyon. Numerous geologic formations can be found in the park, including earthquake faults, marine fossils, volcanic intrusions, and a wide variety of sedimentary formations. On Sunday Oct 25 VAG will host its first ever Autumn season paint out. We encourage all members of all experience levels to join us. We will also have the pleasure of enjoying the company of Plein Air artist Eric Merrel. Eric will be working along side us in this first ever fall event. I highly recommend you not to miss this incredible opportunity and learning experience.



Next General Meeting
Date: Sunday, October 25, 2009
Time: 9:00 to 1:00 p.m
Place: Topanga State Park
Admission: No charge

Presidents Message

Autumn means landscape painting! Our Southern California weather becomes magical in October, and the Valley Artists Guild is proud to be bringing you Eric Merill as our guest artist, who will guide us in another outdoor art experience in beautiful Topanga canyon state park. For those of you who are used to working outdoors, this will be a chance to work with one of the California Art Clubs brightest artist-members. And especially for those of you who are new to the adventure of working "en plein air" (that's French for being in the open air) you could find yourself in a life-changing chapter of your artistic evolution. California has a century-old tradition of artists taking their paints, watercolors, pastels and easels into the forests and heart-pounding landscapes of the Santa Monica Mountains. Artists were first lured by the golden light, violet shadows and lush vistas along with their growing inspiration from the new-fangled trend called French "Impressionism". Artists like William Wendt, and Edgar Payne paved the way in the 1920, and now, California Impressionism has become a recognized school, unique from other branches of Impressionism, due to the specialized ecology and legendary atmosphere of our region.

Every landscape painter has wonderful stories about the rewards and challenges associated with outdoor painting. The wonderful stories include renewed inspiration, camaraderie, and revitalized understanding of depth, perspective, chroma and composition. You will avoid many of the "challenges" by remembering to bring along not only your easels and supplies, but also bottled water, a good hat, sunscreen, some snacks, and your sense of romanticism. After all, you will be walking in the footsteps of the great innovators of color, texture and vibrancy when you join us. Remember, all mediums and all levels of experience are welcome.

The Valley Artists Guild has a fantastic year lined up for you. We continue to grow and offer fabulous opportunities for 2009 and 2010. We look forward to a remarkable paint out together.

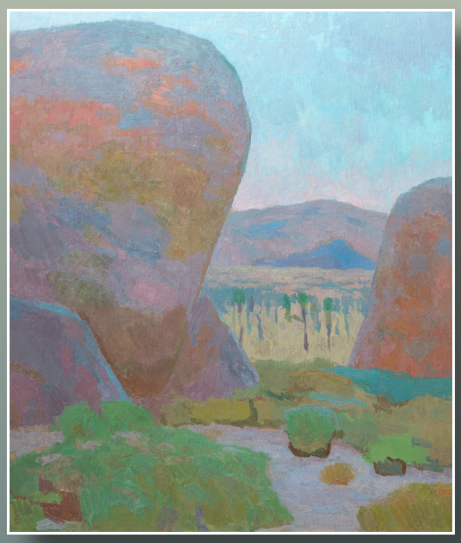
John Paul Thornton

President, Valley Artists Guild.

Although winter is still a few months away as always, VAG is looking ahead to bring you an exciting roster of events and opportunities. We are very pleased to announce that for our 2010 Winter Brunch our guest demonstrator will be Aaron Westerberg.
We are very excited to have such a talented Artist who was named one of the best 24 artists under 40 by Artist Magazine. In the weeks to come we will provide more info for this very special winter gathering. Please visit Aaron's web site for more on his work.

http://www.westerberg-fineart.com/

Behind The Easel



Eric Merrell was born in Gilroy, California on April 24, 1978 and raised there and in Rochester, New York. Early studies in watercolor with Diane Wallace in the Gilroy area exposed him to outdoor painting, which were followed by figure and portrait painting classes in oils with Jim Smyth at the Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, California. Moving back to the east coast after high school, Eric took classes with Al Gury at The University of the Arts and The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, both in Philadelphia. After spending two years in the city, he moved back to California, transferring to Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. For a time during school Eric worked at the Norton Simon Museum, where the long hours offered plenty of time to study and sketch from the collections. He also worked for the California Art Club, researching archival material and at one point interviewing Evelyn Payne Hatcher, the daughter of Edgar and Elsie Payne, early CAC members. Graduating from Art Center in 2001 and receiving a BFA with honors, Eric continued to study painting with artists Peter Adams, Stephen Mirich and Daniel W. Pinkham.

Eric's adventures have included many trips around California, throughout the Sierras and the deserts, along the Pacific Coast, and a solo cross-country painting trip to Philadelphia and back. In late 2002 he traveled to France and painted in the countrysides and cities of Lyon, Chamonix and Dijon, among many others. In April of 2004 he was invited to stay at the Old Battersea House in London and paint in England along with ten other young artists; his paintings were featured in a subsequent exhibition held at the Forbes Gallery in New York City in January 2005. Eric was one of six artists from around the world selected for the Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency during July and August 2009.

Eric has appeared in publications such as *American Art Collector*, *Southwest Art* and *American Artist*; his work has been exhibited at the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Orleans, MA; the Long Beach Museum of Art in Long Beach, CA; the Pasadena Museum of California Art in Pasadena, CA; and the Frederick R. Weisman Museum at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.

Currently, Eric is teaching landscape painting independently and at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art in Van Nuys, California.

For more info, please visit the links below:

Web: HYPERLINK "http://www.ericmerrell.com" www.ericmerrell.com
Blog: HYPERLINK "http://www.ericmerrell.wordpress.com"

Member events and reminders

UPCOMING VAG EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING --
Our group meeting this month will be at Topanga State Park on Oct 25, 9- 1pm
VAG BOARD MEETING --
Board meeting will be at Donna Geist Busch home on Oct 14 at 7:30 pm.

VAG REMINDERS

Deadline for submittal of items for the newsletter.
If you wish to share with us news, thoughts, anything that might interest your member friends, please submit it to me by the 20th of each month Send to Scott Kiche, Lunahope2003@yahoo.com,
Or call 818-462-5708

Board meeting change
The VAG board meeting day has changed from Thursday to the second Wednesday of the month all are welcome to come and join us.
E-mail Scott Kiche at Lunahope2003@yahoo.com or you can contact John Paul at 818-378-8381.

MEMBER NEWS

Donna Geist Buch was accepted into the Brand 38 Works on Paper Exhibition. The exhibit is September 19 through October 23rd.

Donna Geist Buch had 5 paintings accepted into WPW's Encino Terrace Exhibition now exhibiting through the end of October.
John Paul and **Donna Geist Buch** will be in the upcoming Exhibition Titled "All Things Spiritual" which opens September 26th through December 24th at La Galeria Gitana.

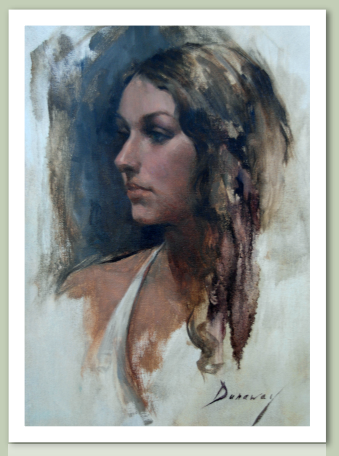
Workshop Opportunity

Capturing the Essence

3 day figure and portrait painting workshop with Michelle Dunaway

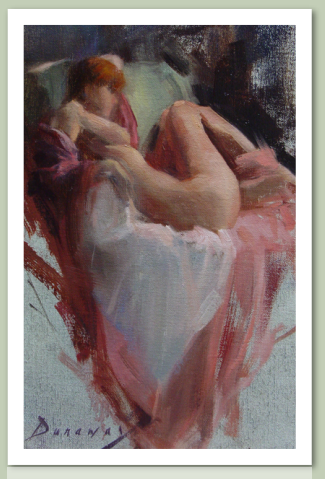
Location: 28233 Agoura Rd, Agoura Hills CA 91301

Time & Date : Oct 23, 24 & 25th 10am-4pm
Cost: $450



This 3 day workshop is a comprehensive and progressive study of the human form and portrait painted alla prima. Capturing the essence of the pose, as well as movement and expression using composition, color temperature and fluid brushwork will be emphasized.
please call Michelle to register (818) 269 7482
class is limited to 15 students.

In addition Michelle is offering an optional two days of drawing (the 21 and 22nd) for an extra $150 for those taking the painting workshop. There are a couple spots left, interested parties please feel free to give Michelle a call at 818-269-7482



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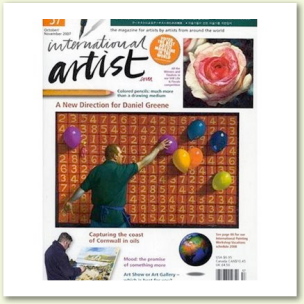
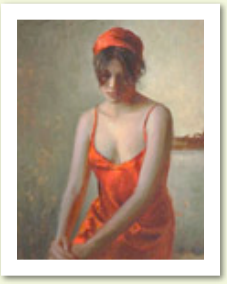
ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES

International Artist Magazine
CURRENT ONLINE COMPETITION
Landscapes
Entries Close:
18 NOv 2009
Winners Features: IA#71
Feb/Mar 2010





North Valley Art League 26th Annual National Show" call for entries (Posted: 9/5/09) -- The North Valley Art League announces a call to artists for an exhibition to be held January 26, 2010 through February 27, 2010 at the Carter House Art Gallery, Redding, California. Best of Show, $1000 - 5 Awards of Excellence, $100 each - 5 Awards of Merit, $50 each and Peoples Choice Award. Juror: Julie Gilbert Pollard. Open to all artists 18 years and over. All two-dimensional mediums except photography, xerography or computer generated art will be eligible. Maximum Height And Width: 40 x 40 inches Including Frame. All entries must be original and independent and not previously shown in a North Valley Art League National Juried Show. Artwork must be framed and wired for hanging. NVAL Members $10 per entry or 3 for $25, Non-Members $12 per entry or 3 for $30. **Deadline: October 31, 2009**. Email nvalnational@sbcglobal.net for prospectus.

VAG BOARD MEMBERS

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September General Meeting

We would like to give our thanks to Sally Jacobs for being our September guest lecturer. Sally gave a very educational and interesting presentation on the worl of botanical art

Mini show winners left to right.
1st place- John Paul Thornton

2nd Place- Ilsa Dettinger

3rd place Jude Wiensenfeld

Honorable Mention- Scott Kiche

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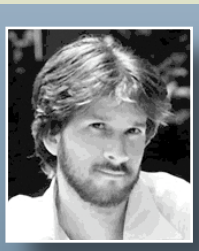
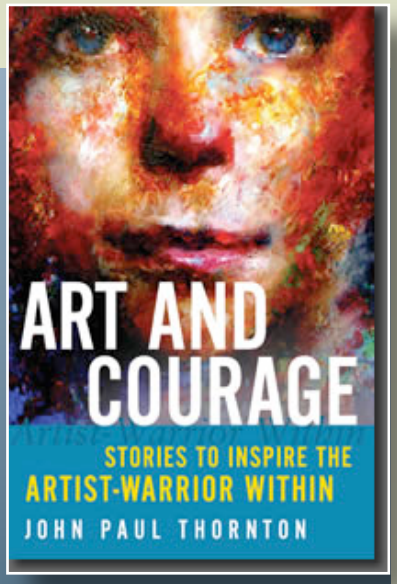
Coming in November



In November for our general meeting we will have none other than our beloved President John Paul Thornton as our guest speaker. John Paul will be sharing his experience and will hold a forum about his reecently published book, Art And Courage.



Summary

"Art and Courage, Stories to Inspire the Artist-Warrior Within" is an artist's call to action. It challenges readers to trust in their creative dreams even in the face of adversity. "Art And Courage" reveals how real artists, dancers, musicians, writers and others successfully faced their fears and found their true calling. In this emotionally charged book you'll discover many illuminating stories including one woman's courageous actions to preserve the freedom of expression in the midst of crushing censorship and war. Read the transformational story of how a song writer bravely responded to the diagnosis of his son's Autism. Meet the dancer who, despite living with cancer, took her art form to a remarkable new level. Find out how a man bound to a wheelchair overcame his restrictions to be a messenger of hope through his paintings. As the world economy shifts, hundreds of thousands of creative individuals are now looking for inspiration and hope for their creative spirit. "Art and Courage" is the answer.

VAG
VALLEY ARTISTS GUILD

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