

Arts & Music

A look at the local art scene in SLV

Mountains Art Center – Mellow Yellow

by Rachel Wooster

Mellow Yellow at the Mountain Art Center is starting its second month on display and if you haven't checked it out yet you really should. The show opened on July 16th and it will be closing September 27th. It features twenty local artists working in a wide range of mediums, including mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, wood, photography, as well as paintings in acrylic, oil, and watercolor.



Don't be deceived by the show's name, these pieces of art are anything but mellow or boring. The backroom of the gallery, with its deep yellow accent wall and vibrant pieces of art, is dynamic and exciting. By contrast, the front main room of the gallery has a much more calm and relaxing feel to it with neutral white walls and softer almost pastel like colors in the artwork. This room may feel calm and

relaxing, but the art it displays is quite thought provoking.

Many of the pieces have layers of meaning and discovery. A great example of this is a painting by Tina Masciocchi called *Tree of Life*. The background colors are calm and soothing with blue on the top and yellow on the bottom. The main element is a tree which gives an overall pattern of crossing branches to the piece. It is painted as three separate panels which when hung looks like kimono, which expands on the meaning of the piece and starts you thinking. Then a closer look reveals that the tree is growing out of what looks like an anchovies can. This gives you a mixed sense of Japanese culture and canned foods, making you ask WHY? This isn't the only piece in the show that raises questions, and many of these artists are known for their unusual pairing of elements, as well as layers of meaning.

There is a sitting bench in the main room with a binder about the artists. This allows you to sit down, do a bit of reading, and absorb the artwork further. Your mind will really get a workout at this show and you will be thinking about it for quite some time afterwards.

Mountains Art Center – Art Camp

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This week Mountains Art Center wrapped up their final session of Art Camp. This was the eighth year they have done an art camp and this year it was split up into four one-week sessions. For children ages six to twelve art camp was Monday through Friday with one class in the morning and one class in the afternoon. Tweens and teens had their own class in the late afternoons. This allowed for each age group to get the attention they needed, while allowing for maximum learning. Each week of

classes had space for 14 children and most classes were full.

Each session had a theme and was taught by eight teachers, giving the kids a diverse palette of inspiration and instruction styles. They worked with many different materials such as beads, clay, metal, and paints. For the younger children the first session started off with the theme Wild Woods. Session two was Machine Madness, the third was Sun Time, Fun Time and the final session was Animal Friends. The themes for the teens were Clay for Teens, Robotics I & II, Manipulating Metal, and finishing with Throwing on the Potter's Wheel.

The results have been excellent and the goal of encouraging artistic expression and growth has been achieved. The children came away with a feeling of excitement and inquisitiveness about their artistic possibilities. The center is doing a wonderful job of teaching and inspiring the next generation of artists. Next summer, consider this summer camp program for your budding artist and see how the art center can help them grow and flourish!

