

Gallery 113

Sharing “Places Far and Near”

By Kerry Methner / CASA

TO HAVE FUN, TO MAKE LIFE JUST A LITTLE MORE PALATABLE, TO OFFER AN INTERPRETATION... these are just a few of the reasons that life-long artist Patricia Borgman picks up her brush.

A selection of her recent works, comprised mostly of landscapes of the Santa Barbara area, Monterey Bay, and several inspired by her September visit to Turkey with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, will be on view during January at Gallery 113.

The exhibit offers 20 of her water based pieces, and opens with a 1st Thursday reception on January 5th from 5 to 8pm.

While many of the paintings Borgman completes are commissions, (she recently



The Californian by Patricia Borgman

finished painting several different angles of Arnoldi's Italian restaurant in Santa Barbara) this exhibit offers the artist's favorite places.

“We need more artists amongst us, interpreting the mundane, like a laundry or the Goleta bakery. Artists call attention to them, that catches people's eye... Even the prosaic and the dull can be exciting,” Borgman shared.

Unlike many artists who have never worked on commission, Borgman got an early start in this area. “As a teenager I financed my main hobby, having a horse, by selling pen and ink drawings of neighbors' homes,” she related. This was a culmination of many, many afternoons at her kitchen table, “I was constantly drawing with my sister,” she explained. Her mother “always provided my siblings and me with art supplies from the time I was five or six.” She also entered her into local art contests.

About the same time, in Junior High, Borgman started taking Spanish in school. “It was the 60s and 70s and it was cool to take a language... And I was just good at it.”

By the time she was in college, she was doing well in both art and Spanish. Her junior year she spent in Madrid with her



Patricia Borgman

two interests coming together in a two-semester course that met weekly at the Prado Museum. “It was so exciting and wonderful!” she enthused. In the end, Borgman completed a BA in Art History at UC Santa Cruz and Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Spanish Literature, at UC Santa Barbara. Now multi-lingual she works in Interpreter Services at Cottage Health Systems.

Her language abilities and artistic sensibility continue to play off each other, in a way complimenting each other.

“The work I do in the hospital stimulates my brain, Borgman noted. “The days I'm most creative, are the days when I've had the more difficult days at work.”

Borgman handles all kinds of interpretation needs at the hospital, from end of life conferences to conveying simple but important information to patients and families. “I've got to express...” she explained. “After even extraordinarily hard conversations, I want to come home to express... and give some lightness.”

For Borgman, painting is a process of interpreting, to create a feeling. That translates into “suggest more and include less.” To accomplish this she uses broad square brush strokes and abundant color to convey feeling. Her work feels loose and light, with room to move around. Often,



Santa Barbara Mission by Patricia Borgman

when painting well known and sometimes iconic landscapes, she asks, “Is there a way it can be done fresh; for a subject so old, is there a new twist?”

Borgman has found an ally in her method. Watercolor can flow and the possible color palette is huge. Perhaps like many, she has a few tools that she wouldn't want to do without. One is her favorite color - quinacridone gold. “It has to be used sparingly,” she noted. But with this colorful friend, Borgman can suggest a local favorite - winter light in southern California.



Gallery 113 is located at 1114 State St #8 in La Arcada Court. Reach the Gallery at 965-6611. Learn more about Patricia Borgman at santabarbarawatercolors.com.