

ARTIST PROFILE



Inside Wave, oil on canvas 16" x 48" by **Karen Fedderson**

Corridan Gallery:

Poetry on Canvas

By **ERIN SMITH** / CASA

ART IS MUCH MORE than a pretty picture for landscape artist Karen Fedderson. Her solo show at Corridan Gallery, *Poetry on Canvas*, demonstrates this, including Fedderson's most recent work celebrating the beauty of the California coastal landscape.

"The last two years I've really focused not on photographic re-creation, but on the emotional representation of what makes me excited," shared the artist. "I've been pushing to make a statement to portray what I see, not as a representation of a place, but the feeling of a place."

Fedderson, a fifth-generation California, has been painting for the last forty years. She was inspired as a young artist by her great aunt's paintings that hung in her grandmother's house. It was important for her then "to know that someone could [paint professionally] and it would be okay." Fedderson studied commercial art in college, but soon decided that painting was her calling. "I didn't think about showing or selling my work. It was about having to do this. I had to paint," she explained.

Over the years the works of Monet, Vermeer, and Rembrandt have influenced her. Presently, Fedderson is excited by contemporary landscape artists Joseph McGurl and April Gornik.

Fedderson is endlessly fascinated by the problem-solving aspect of taking what she sees in nature and translating it onto canvas. She finds great joy in the "process of being out there, seeing

past the phone lines and the man-made objects, and connecting with what is already beautiful in nature." It's about "seeing it and loving it, and getting the canvas to say what I see," Fedderson noted. "The end result is making a beautiful painting."

Despite the high level of detail in Fedderson's work, there is also an impressionistic aspect to her painting.

"I use selective detail to finish the statement I'm making. I don't finish every corner," said the artist. "I paint from the gut. I don't get too intellectual. I'm trying to slow down, be more careful, and take more time in the beginning."

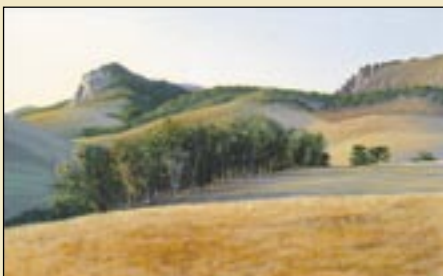
Fedderson draws most of her creative inspiration from the ocean. "I'm a water person. Water makes me feel good," shared Fedderson. "When painting water I feel almost as good as if I'm walking in it."

In the past few years the artist has begun painting the inland areas of California, capturing the gentle rolling hills, lakes, and creeks and applying what she has learned doing coastal scenes. The show includes landscapes created in both diptychs and triptychs. The artist challenges herself to create each panel as a complete work in itself, as well as creating a larger, more energetic composition with the panels grouped together. "I love the big view, whether it's the ocean or the hills," said Fedderson. "I just love that dynamic."

The Gallery is located at 125 N Milpas St and is open Tu through Sa 11 to 5pm. The gallery will be open for Labor Day weekend Aug 30-31 from 11 to 5pm. Fedderson will participate in the SB Studio Artists Tour Aug 30 & 31. 'Poetry on Canvas' will be on display through Oct 25. There will be an artist reception Sept 20 from 5 to 7pm. For more information call 966-7939.



Karen Fedderson



From Turri Road, oil on canvas diptych 30" x 96" by **Karen Fedderson**