Striking Gold

California Art Club's 98th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition

Lynn Gertenbach, Heritage Oak, 30 x 40"

One of the most prestigious and collector-friendly art events in Southern California is the California Art Club's annual *Gold Medal Exhibition*. This year's show, the 98th annual for the group, will include over 300 paintings and sculpture and is set to be held April 26 through May 17 at the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

This year's show features work by artists like **Jeremy Lipking**, **Peter Adams**, **Kim Lordier**, **Ellen Brown**, **Herb Seymour**, **Tony Peters**, **Vic Riesau**, **Joan Parker**, **Lisa Bloomingdale Bell**, **Gerald Brommer**, **Mian Situ**, **Milly Tsai**, **Lynn Gertenbach** and **Verna Marie Campbell**.

Collectors flock to the annual *Gold Medal Exhibition* not just for the quality of the art on display but also for the laid-back atmosphere of the opening night where people are able to socialize with the artists directly and see the new paintings before they are on view for the duration of the show.

While the artists who participate in the exhibition are from all over the country, many of them are influenced by the early →

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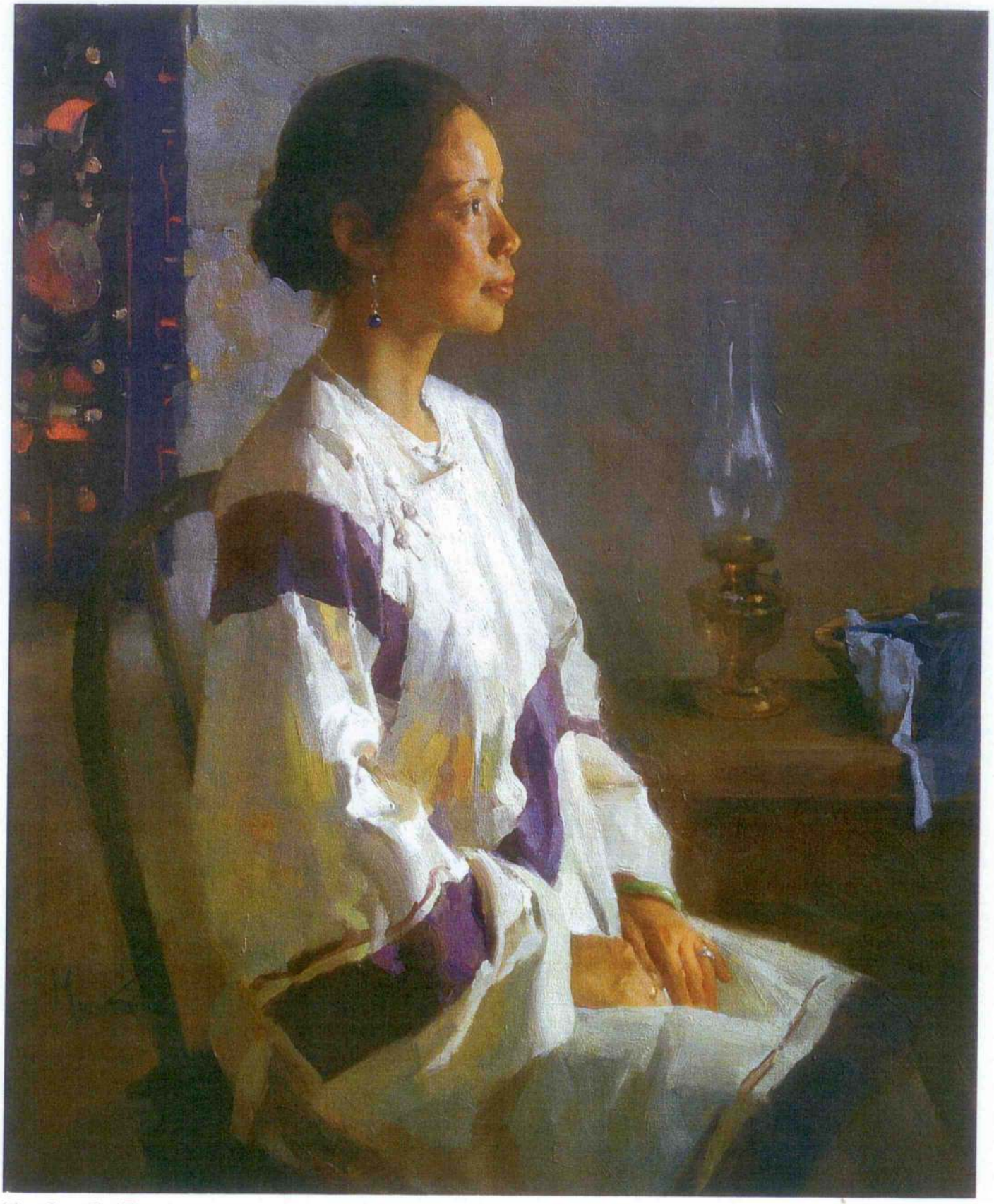


Mian Situ, The Tradition, oil on canvas, 24 x 20"

PETER ADAMS, CUPIDS ASCENDING THE SILVER ARK, OIL ON PANEL, 20 X 24"

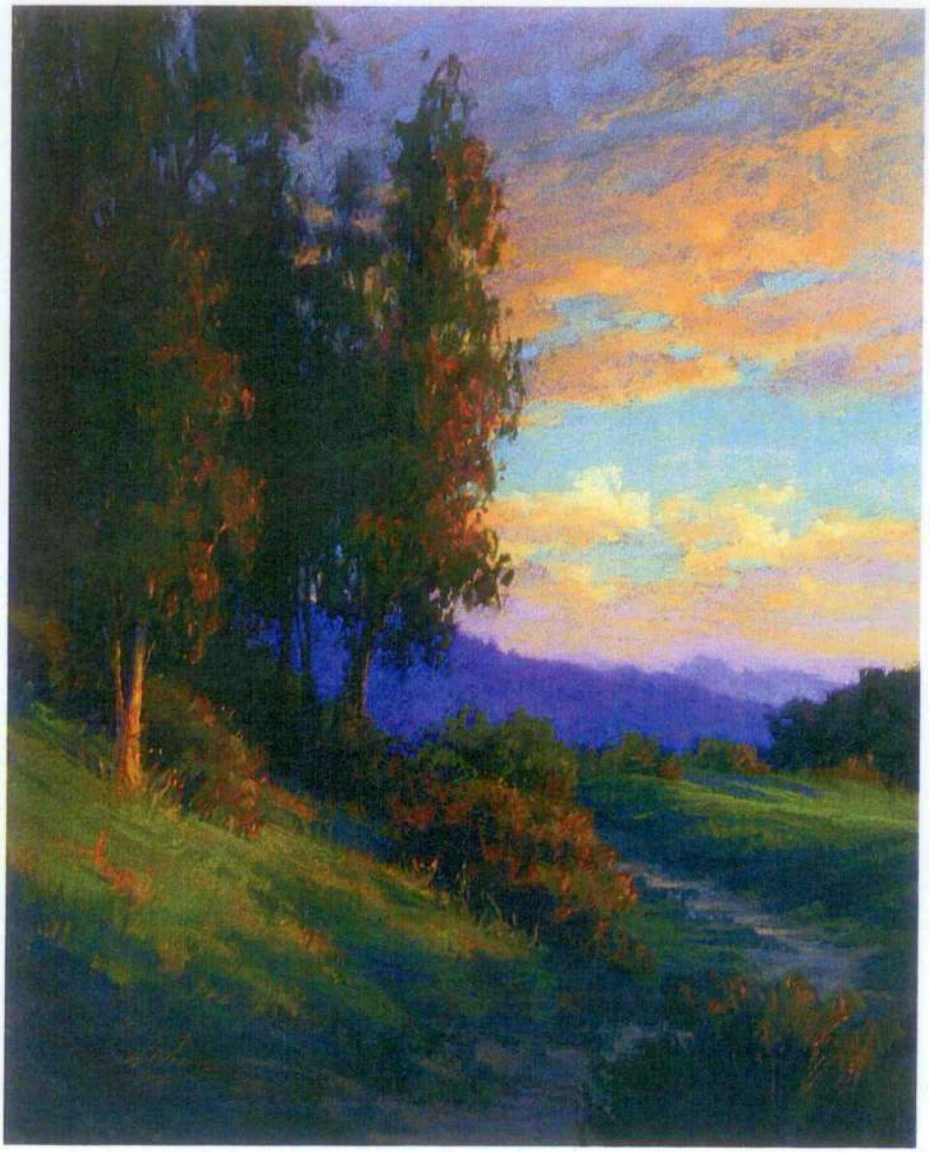
California Impressionists who worked in the state in the early part of the 20th century. Like those historic artists, the artists of the California Art Club love to paint on location anywhere up and down the scenic California coast.

"As many California Art Club artists have been profoundly influenced by the work of the organization's early artists, including Franz A. Bischoff, Guy Rose and William Wendt, it is fitting that the *Gold Medal Exhibition* pays tribute to their legacy and the artistic movement that they championed," says David C. Gallup, the Club's vice president and chairman of the Gold Medal Artists' Committee.

During opening night, the club also announces the winners of several important awards, including the *Gold Medal* ➔

GERALD BROMMER, MORNING LIGHT – SONORAN DESERT, WATERCOLOR, 22 X 30"

JOAN PARKER, SUNBAKED, OIL ON CANVAS, 4 X 10"



KIM LORDIER, TENDER IS THE EVE, PASTEL ON ARCHIVAL BOARD, 30 X 24"

in Painting and the *Gold Medal in Sculpture*. As has been the case for the last four years, *American Art Collector* editor Joshua Rose will be on hand to announce the winner of the *American Art Collector Award of Excellence*. Last year's winner was painter Paul Panossian.

While the work in the exhibition hangs throughout the month, the Artists' Gala Reception takes place Saturday, April 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event is open to the public and tickets can be purchased by calling the club at (310) 472-9323.

Mian Situ's painting that was juried into the show, titled *The Tradition*, ties together two eras and two distinct experiences.

"This is the traditional costume the Chinese ladies wore during the last dynasty, the Qing Dynasty," says Situ, "and the same kind was worn here by the early Chinese immigrants in America."

The painting *Cupids Ascending the Silver Ark* by **Peter Adams** is inspired by an attitude of hope.

"The message in this work is about innocence and light helping to raise each other to higher ideals," says Adams. "The silver ark symbolizes a spiritual voyage."

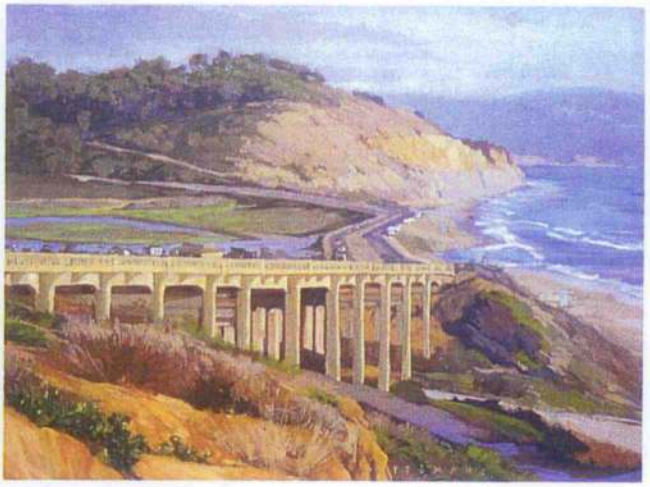
For **Gerald Brommer**, early morning light in any desert is exciting and indicative of newness and a promise of refreshing times ahead.

"Such light in any location has always been a powerful presence in many of my paintings, but in the desert it almost seems profound," says Brommer. "This work, *Morning Light – Sonoran Desert*, to ➔

Vic Riesau, Spring Waters, oil on canvas, 24 x 36"

Milly Tsai, Koi Pond, oil on linen, 18 x 24"

Jove Wang, A Day On The Silk Road, oil on canvas, 48 x 72"



Jeff Yeomans, Coast Highway Gold, oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

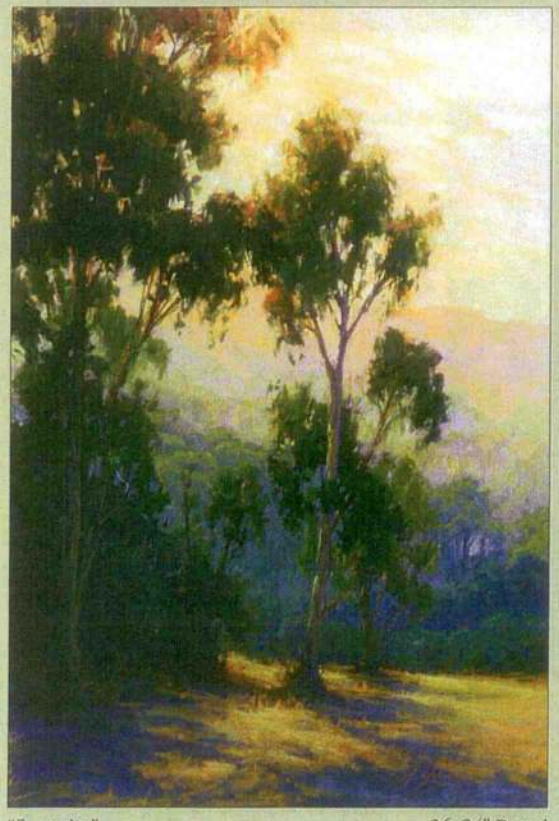
me, is a meaningful impression rather than a definitive representation of a specific place."

One of the reasons **Lynn Gertenbach** fell in love with her house in Calabasas, California, was the massive Heritage oak in the backyard, and the lily pond in the front garden. It served as the inspiration for her piece in the CAC show, titled, *Heritage Oak*.

"Although I've admired the tree from my views, I had never used it as the focus of a painting. Recently, the protective quality of this massive tree with its rustic bark and new spring leaves, challenged me to portray *Heritage Oak* in oil," says Gertenbach. "Now the strength and beauty of this magnificent tree, estimated to be 450 years old are captured on canvas."

Looking Inward by **Tony Peters** was inspired by something Carl Jung once said: "Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens."

"This painting, *Looking Inward*, feels like the culmination of my efforts as an artist to this point in my life—my points of view, looking inward for thoughts and feelings, looking out at the world in longing and awe," says Peters. "The figure in this piece, is my self-portrait." ➔



"Serenity" 36x24" Pastel

Kim Lordier

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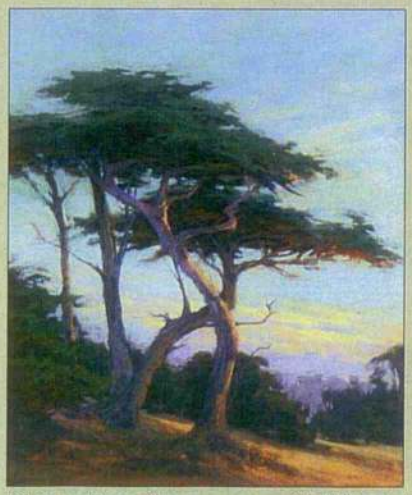

"Cypress Dance" 24x18" Pastel

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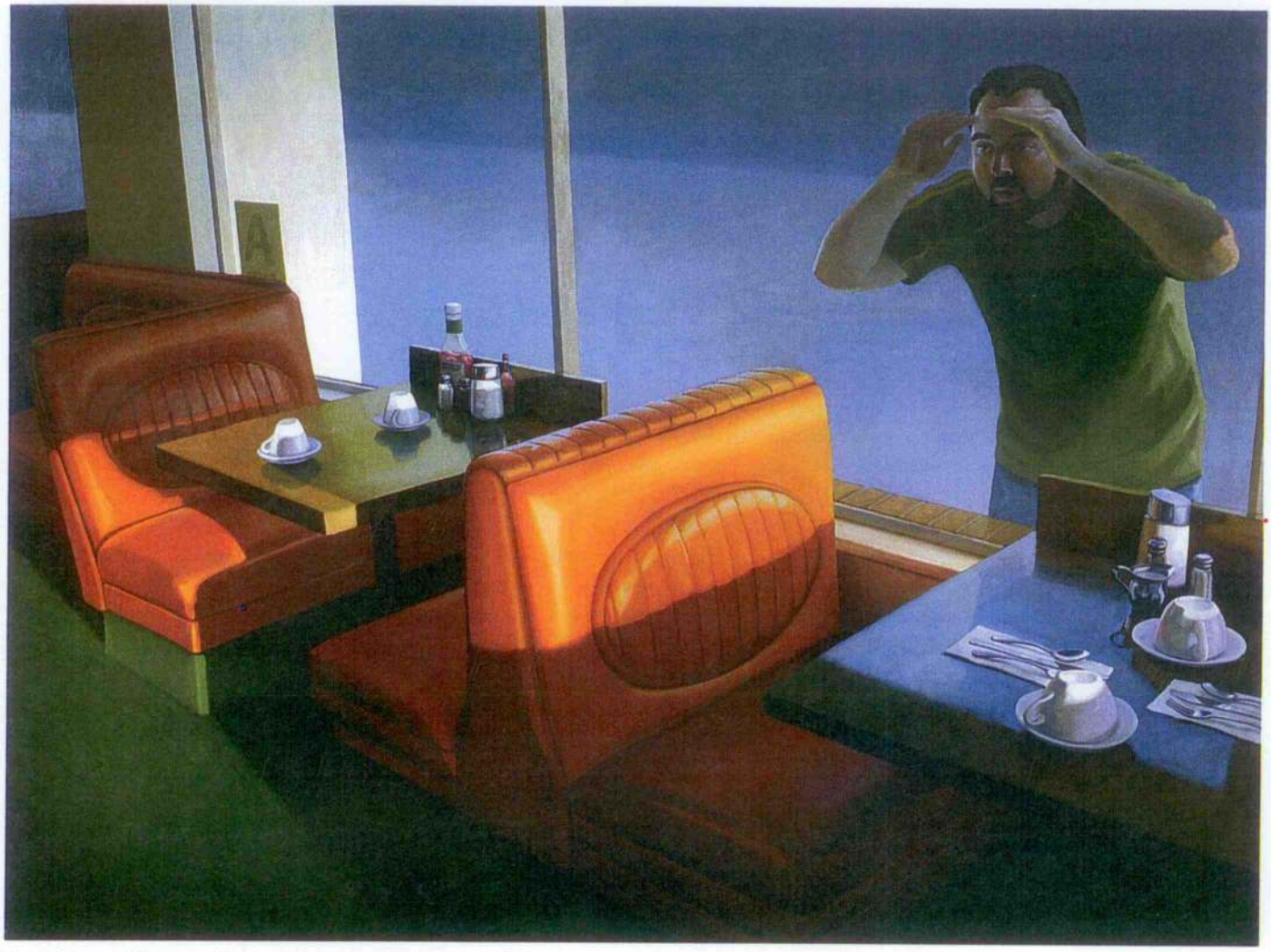
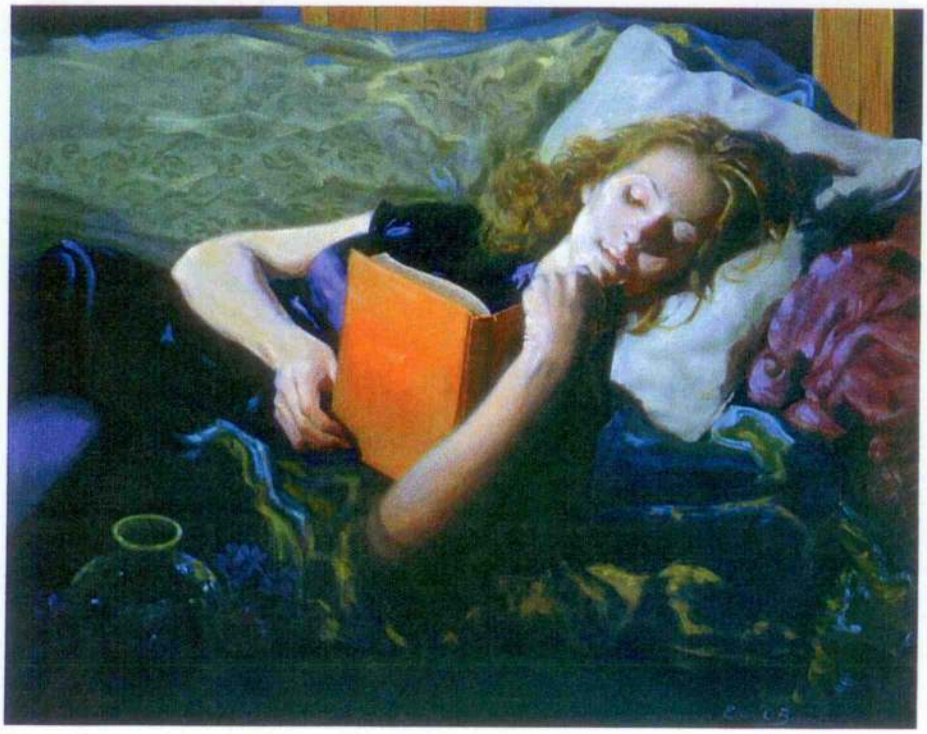


TONY PETERS, LOOKING INWARD, OIL ON CANVAS, 36 X 48"



ELLEN BROWN, READING TREASURE ISLAND, OIL ON LINEN, 22 X 28"

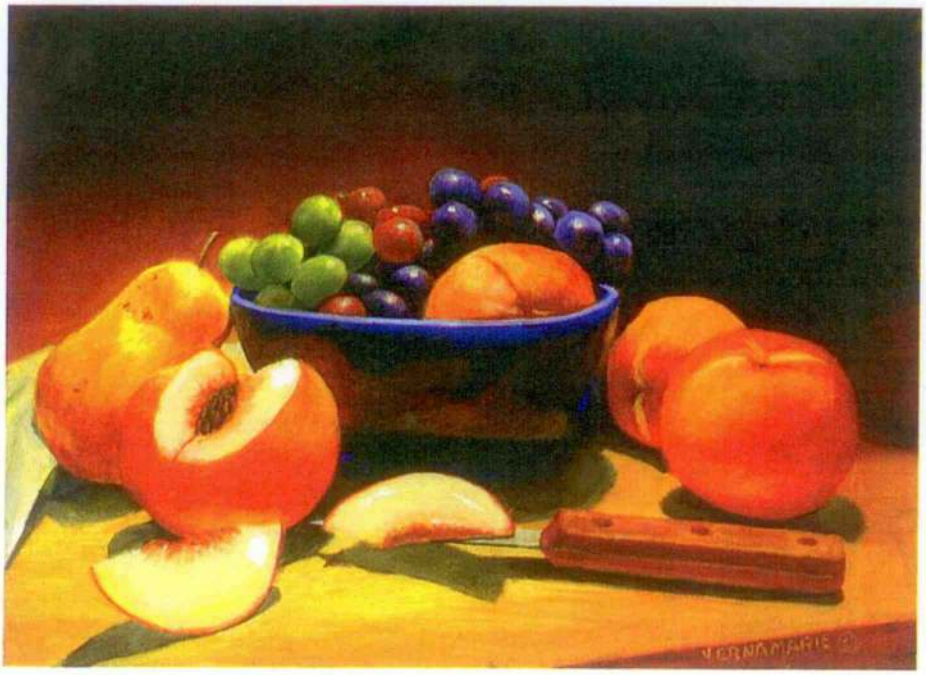
Southern California artist **Ellen Brown's** style is based in classical realism, but her subject matter exists in the contemporary world.

"In *Reading Treasure Island*, I worked to balance the textures of light and fabric in a way that expresses the warmth and quiet of a moment in time as the young woman is caught up in the wonders of a classic work of literature," says Brown about her painting in the show. "The subject is there but also far away, and oblivious to the presence of the viewer."

Before **Milly Tsai** began painting in oils, she was well-versed in Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. She brings the techniques and compositional skills of traditional Chinese brush painting into her oil paintings, enriching her brush strokes with meaning and her composition with balance and harmony.

"In *Koi Pond*, I wanted to express the movement of fish through the transparent space of the pond," says Tsai.

Lisa Bloomingdale Bell, Old English Bloom, oil on canvas, 9 x 12"

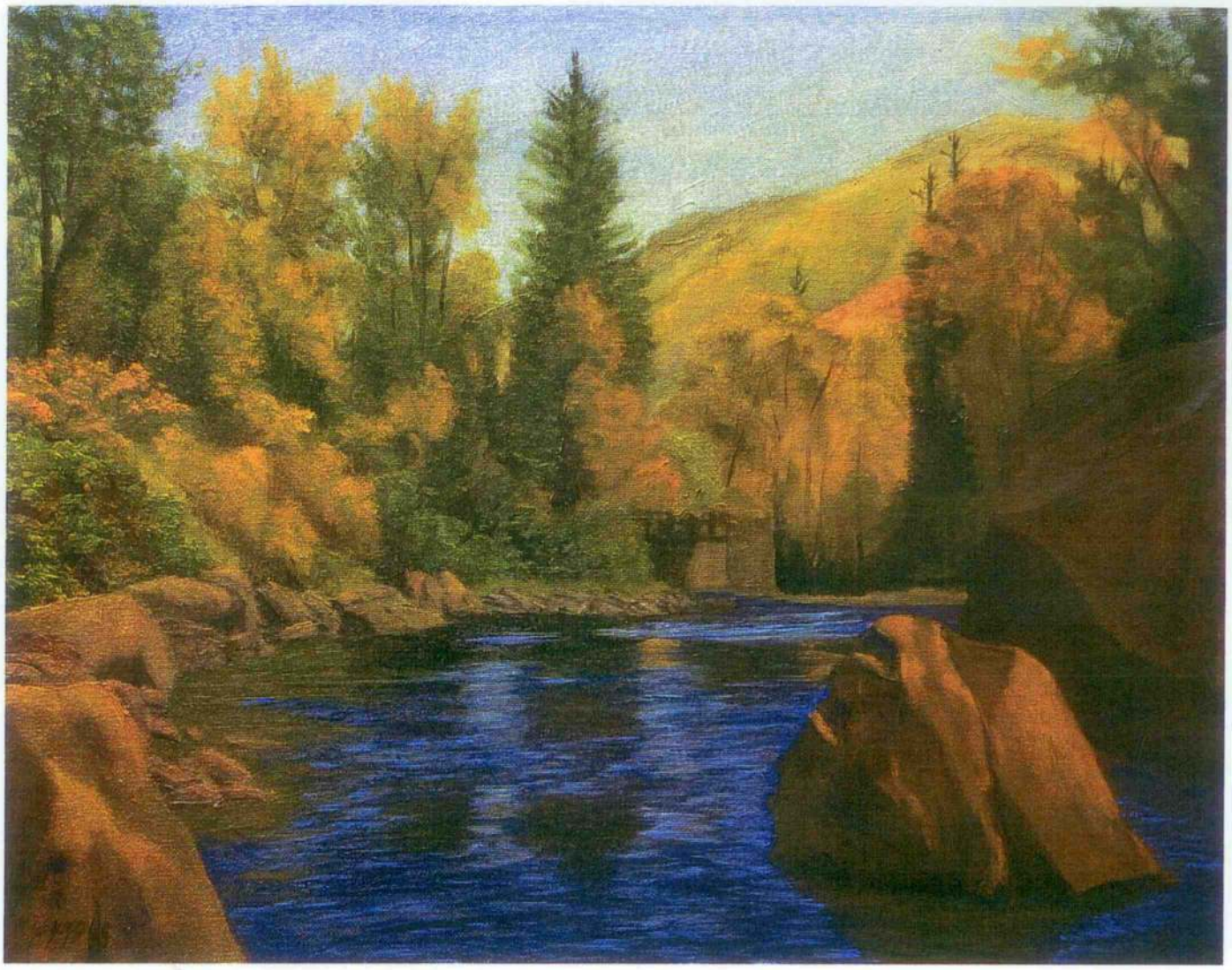


Verna Marie Campbell, White Peaches and Grapes, oil on board, 9 x 12"

Kim Lordier says her piece that was juried into the show, titled *Tender is the Eve*, is about "that last moment of light just before the dusky veil falls."

"So elusive, so quick as the earths shadow travels across the terrain," says Lordier. "I am honored to have my painting accepted into this year's *Gold Medal Exhibition*, and humbled by the excellence and strength of tradition being carried out by the artists in this exhibit. I came to paint the landscape in large part because of the early California Impressionists, and find the historical correlation inspiring."

An abiding respect for the natural world and an equal passion for sculpture and painting fuel the creative instincts of **Vic Riesau**. An avid plein air painter as well as an accomplished studio painter, Riesau finds endless inspiration in the varied landscapes of California, the Southwest, the High Sierra and the dramatic Pacific coastline. ➔



HERB SEYMOUR, SHIMMERING POOL, OIL ON CANVAS, 16 X 20"

Verna Marie Campbell paints in a realistic style and loves to see strong darks and lights with sections of reflected light.

"With my still lifes, I prefer simple backgrounds where one is free to imagine what is back beyond the subjects," says Campbell. "I also strive to tell a story rather then just painting a bunch of objects. It is like catching a moment in time."

Herb Seymour's painting *Shimmering Pool* was inspired by the Crystal River in the Colorado Rockies at just about the peak of fall color.

"I love the work of the California Impressionists who founded the California Art Club, and who are my inspiration to capture the wonderful light we have in California and the west. I'm privileged to have been a member of the CAC for a number of years and have the opportunity to paint with and learn from some of the master artists in the club, many of whom will someday be held in just as high esteem as their predecessors."

Although **Joan Parker** calls the Midwest home now, she says her heart's home remains in California.

"I discovered plein air while attending Art Center in California and my involvement with CAC allows me to stay connected to many of the things I love most," says Parker. "I've brought my passion for plein air to the Midwest and have helped found events here that have their origins with CAC. The piece chosen for the show, *Sunbaked*, is a quilted valley that winds along the Missouri river."

Being a garden enthusiast, **Lisa Bloomingdale Bell** finds that they are one of her greatest inspirations, as evidenced in her juried-in painting, **Old English Bloom**.

"European gardens are especially inspirational to me because of their beauty as well as their elements of antiquity," says Bell. "I love the way the light and shadows play among the flowers and foliage." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to
www.americanartcollector.com

What: California Art Club's 98th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition.

When: April 26-May 17, 2009. Artists' Gala Reception will be April 25 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: Pasadena Museum of California Art, 490 E. Union Street, Pasadena, CA.

For information, call (626) 583-9009 or www.californiaartclub.org.