

## RAY ROBERTS

## Water and earth

From rocky seashores to creek-side sycamores, Ray Roberts paints breathtaking views of the California landscape. With much of his work beginning as plein air sketches painted on location, Roberts transforms the small-scale pieces into larger renderings that accurately depict a place during his time spent there. As Roberts explains, "I'm able to get my ideas outdoors more easily and also to see color better and generally feel the whole environment and get a sense of it."

Beyond a general theme, idea and inspiration, Roberts focuses heavily on color relationships. And when he creates plein air pieces that are to be worked into studio paintings, Roberts captures a complete sense of the region from its color

to atmosphere to time of day.

"I look for whatever moves me any time of day—I often will favor end of day or beginning of day, but sometimes if one is receptive you can find interest in

One such work that shows the glistening of the daytime sun off crashing waves is *Two Harbors, Catalina*, a 30-by-40-inch oil on linen that was painted while visiting the "wild side" of Catalina Island.

Another subject that Roberts is drawn to are sycamores in creek-side settings. "They speak of undisturbed California as I remember as a child," he shares. Examples include *California Sycamore* and *Creekside Sycamore*, which had locations about 10 miles apart from one another in Southern California.

These works and others of Roberts' newest scenes will be available at James J.

Rieser Fine Arts during his first solo exhibit at the gallery, which runs through April 27. Along with paintings of California there will be one painting of the Acadia coastline featured in the exhibit. ●

*"I believe Ray Roberts is arguably the top plein air painter in California at this time. His seascapes of the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur coast capture the sparkle of sunlight on water in a manner that is reminiscent of William Ritschel and Frank Myers..."*

— James Rieser, owner, James J. Rieser Fine Art

subjects in the middle of the day as well," he says. "For instance, the light sunlight glistening off the water is something I've explored extensively and made several paintings of it."



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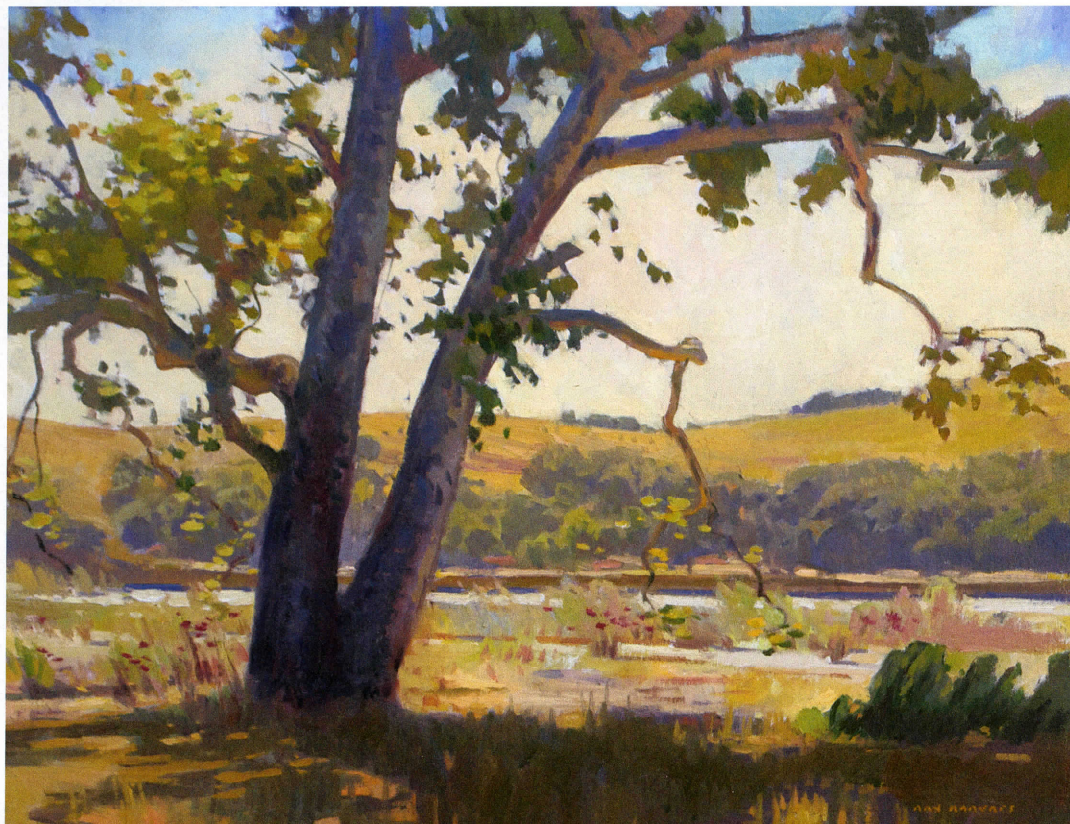
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**1**  
*Crashing Wave at Pt. Lobos,*  
oil on linen, 30 x 40"

**2**  
*Two Harbors, Catalina,*  
oil on linen, 30 x 40"

**3**  
*California Sycamore,*  
oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

**4**  
*Creekside Sycamore,*  
oil on canvas, 24 x 30"



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