

About the 2016 Art Tales art and artists



Meredith Brooks Abbott (b. 1938)

Oranges Against Shadows, 1999, oil on canvas.

Meredith Brooks Abbott continues the American Impressionist legacy through

her luminous paintings of California landscapes and still life. She studied and learned from several recognized American Impressionist painters – Douglass Parshall, Richard Meryman and Clarence Hinkle. Abbott's family-owned, fifty-acre ranch in Carpinteria is the landscape found in her plein air paintings. With an affinity for nature, Abbott is active in the preservation of threatened environments in California. She is a member of the Open Airing Klub (OAK), a group of painters whose subjects are endangered areas threatened by development. Abbott is also a member of numerous arts associations including the Santa Barbara Arts Council, Plein Air Painters of America, and the California Art.



Marguerite Hardeman (1911-1990)

Ortega Adobe, c. 1960's, oil on canvas.

California muralist Marguerite Hardeman — a member of the Realistic Painters Group in Ojai who

taught at Ventura College in the 1960s — created 25 murals, 15 of which are now in the Olivas Adobe art collection. They depict four centuries of Ventura's history from the first encounter between Chumash and European explorers to scenes of Spanish and Mexican settlement — including the Mission and Mexican Rancho San Miguel of the Olivas family — and capped with a modern-day overview of the city from Grant Park. The murals are on display each year free for the public to view during the "Murals & Roses" exhibit at the Olivas Adobe in May or early June. In celebration of the City of Ventura's 150th anniversary of the State of California granting Ventura cityhood, a panel of her work "Ortega Adobe" is included in the 2016 Art Tales contest.



Katherine McGuire (b.1958)

Catalina Street V, 2002, watercolor on paper.

Katherine McGuire has established herself as a highly respected water-

colorist with a sensitive eye for the local landscape. Enchanted with images of quintessential Ventura, particularly the diverse people and characteristic architecture of ordinary neighborhoods, her subtle and airy treatment of vintage buildings and idyllic vistas portray Ventura as a place of dreamy charm. "I love the hillsides, the ocean, the Spanish architecture. I think I notice details in Ventura that are often overlooked because it's so different from where I grew up — there are no palm trees in Iowa."

Katherine McGuire, who has been fascinated with art since childhood, earned a BA in fine arts from the University of New Mexico. She is a member of the Buenaventura Art Association and former co-chair of the Historic Committee for the Midtown Ventura Community Council. Her art has been exhibited at the Carnegie Art Museum, the Museum of Ventura County, and, among other spaces, the Ojai Center for the Arts.



Paula Odor (b. 1927)

Thrift, 1999, watercolor.

This highly evocative work describes a multi-layered perspective of human experience in visual terms, but for Paula Odor the impulse for creativity is primarily instinctive. While painting in the park near downtown Ventura's historic Mission, Odor took a break and walked passed one of the colorful thrift stores in the area. The vision of light on a windowpane, and the

rich tapestry of objects within reacted with her sense of aesthetic pleasure. She says "I try to make a painting so that a person sees something for the first time. We look at things every day and yet we never really see them."

Paula Odor is a watercolor painter who has been a resident of Ventura since 1955. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Ad Design, and a Master's in Art from New Mexico Highlands University, and has taught art in public schools. She has exhibited her work widely in galleries and museums such as the Carnegie Art Museum, and the Buenaventura Art Association. She is active with several art organizations such as the California Goldcoast Watercolor Society and the Ventura College Friends of the Arts.