



**ARTS GUILD OF SONOMA GALLERY TO SHOWCASE “EMERGING CREATIVITY” STUDENT ART
CREATED BY SONOMA VALLEY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Student artwork exhibit and sale

March 27 to April 29, 2024; Public reception Saturday, April 4, 5pm to 7pm

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA – March 5, 2023 – The Arts Guild of Sonoma will showcase 100 original works of art by Sonoma middle- and high school students in its student art show March 27 to April 29, 2024 with a public reception Thursday April 4, 5pm to 7pm coinciding with the Sonoma Art Walk.

Works by students from Altimira Middle School taught by Cheryl Coldiron and from Sonoma Valley High School taught by Renate Kuprian are created especially for this show. The students' works will be visible in the front window exhibit area of the Arts Guild of Sonoma gallery at 140 East Napa Street, Sonoma, one half block from the historic Sonoma Plaza. Selected works will be available for purchase and all proceeds will go directly to the individual students.

The high school students will feature themes of their own choosing, while the middle school students will offer works featuring waterfalls, lakes, or rivers in the High Sierra Mountains, based on the style of Japanese/American artist, Chiura Obata. All canvases will be 8 x 10 inches.

CONTINUING A TRADITION OF SUPPORTING STUDENT ART

The annual student art show has been hosted by the Arts Guild of Sonoma for many years, funded by a grant from the Sonoma Plein Air Foundation, a Sonoma nonprofit organization dedicated to funding creativity development and art education for Sonoma Valley children and youth. The canvases for the students' works are donated by Sonoma Valley's Fine Line Art & Framing.

Arts Guild of Sonoma President, Margery Mayer, said, “The student art show is often the first time a student gets to present their works to the greater public and gives gallery visitors the chance to see and purchase a piece of student art to enhance their own home or office.”

“We are impressed every year with the caliber of student work and the results of caring instruction by art teachers, Cheryl Coldiron in our middle school and Renate Kuprian at the high school,” said President of the Sonoma Plein Air Foundation board Cheryl Shimek. “Early positive

arts experiences can have a lasting effect on students as they go on into upper education and careers.”

“We are delighted to support students’ creativity,” said Bob Leigh, owner of Fine Line Art & Frame in Sonoma. “By donating these canvases, we are doing a small part to help reduce the financial burden of purchasing supplies for this special show. We hope this positive experience will encourage students to come on their own to explore the abundant range of art supplies, mediums, and materials we have to offer.”

SHARING STUDENT ART WITH THE PUBLIC

“This exhibit helps students learn about one of our greatest and most beautiful national parks (Yosemite) while helping them understand the style of a great artist, Chiura Obata, to create their own versions of mountains, waterfalls, and lakes found in the high Sierras,” said Cheryl Coldiron, teacher from both Sonoma middle schools, Altimira and Adele Harrison.

Renate Kuprian, art teacher at Sonoma Valley High School said, “More than ever, high school students need the powerful avenues of expression that art provides them. Art creation provides a true unadulterated expression of their own vision, and this gives young adults confidence.”

ABOUT THE ARTS GUILD OF SONOMA: This year the Arts Guild of Sonoma celebrates 47 years as a prestigious art gallery in Sonoma and one of the longest-running artists’ cooperatives in California.

The Arts Guild of Sonoma was founded to exhibit and advance the creative efforts of local and Bay Area artists and to promote in its members the highest standards of artistic expression and professionalism. The Guild features original paintings, sculpture, woodworking, ceramics, jewelry, art reproductions, and greeting cards. The Guild supports initiatives to build awareness of art as a key part of the identity of Sonoma Valley.

The Arts Guild of Sonoma provides ongoing support of local and regional artists and arts education. The Guild sponsors a range of community and national programs to feature the works of new, aspiring, as well as experienced artists. The Arts Guild of Sonoma is a 501(c)(3) California Public Benefit Corporation.

ABOUT THE SONOMA PLEIN AIR FOUNDATION: The Sonoma Plein Air Foundation, now celebrating its 22nd anniversary, is dedicated to supporting art education in Sonoma Valley schools and organizations. Over the years, our grants have funded art programs at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, the Sonoma Community Center, Art Escape, Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma and LaLuz Center as well as art supplies & activities at Sonoma Valley elementary, middle and high schools.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDY FOR THIS SHOW: Sonoma middle school students learn about different composition techniques. In preparation for the Arts Guild show, the

students made a painting of the High Sierra waterfalls, lakes, and mountains including a crescent moon or small sun, while adapting the style of Japanese Artist, Chiura Obata. Mr. Obata was an art professor at UC Berkeley before and after WWII.

ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDY FOR THIS SHOW: Students are encouraged to create original and interesting works of their own choosing incorporating the elements and principles of art and design. In the classroom the discussion is what makes interesting works of art and how do artists get their ideas.

ABOUT FINE LINE ART & FRAME: Located in the Sonoma Shopping Center next to Whole Foods, Fine Line Art & Frame offers abundant art supplies, custom framing excellence and thoughtful gifts to Sonoma Valley art enthusiasts, collectors, and professional artists, amateurs, and students.

For further information:

Arts Guild of Sonoma Gallery
140 East Napa Street, Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone: 707-996-3115
admin@artsguildofsonoma.org

Or

Pat Meier-Johnson
Publicity
Arts Guild of Sonoma Gallery
patmeierjohnson@gmail.com
415-717-9677