



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter
Denis Hoye, Editor

Mt. Diablo Branch

Ekphrasis Exhibition 2024

Inspiring Art and Authors

By Linda Hartmann

The collaborative Ekphrasis Exhibition 2024 was installed at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The exhibition is available for viewing artwork with responses from authors on the 2nd floor of the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, April 29 – June 28. Hours are Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. Call 925.254.2184 for more Library information or visit ccclib.org/.

A live online gallery link began on May 1st, 2024, at the following link: <https://lamorindaarts.org/product-category/ekphrasis/>. The Opening Program and Reception were held from 1:00 – 5:30 pm on Saturday, May 4th, and were well-attended despite the rain and cold weather (approximately 200 + people attended). The auditorium was nearly full, and the event was recorded.

A wide variety of artists and authors were diverse, and everyone seemed to enjoy the event. Many commented on the nature of the outreach for the community being very beneficial! Some of the artists said how wonderful it was to have an event where they could meet each other in person, as they often drop their pieces for the exhibitions and do not stay to visit for long.

Five art pieces have already sold

Clown – Rachel Fite
Carp River Peony - Anne Rabe
The March -Judith Rohrer
Slice of Life - Ruth Stanton
Elizabeth Kennen – Frida Kahlo's Garden

Authors

Arthur Cabral – “Clown”
Stephanie Denman – “Pink Party”
Linda Hartmann – “She Marches On”
B. Lynn Goodwin – “Catitude”
Nannette Rundle Carroll – “In Frida Kahlo's Garden”

Ekphrasis

A Sweeping Exhibition of Inspiration

The term “ekphrasis” began in ancient Greece during the time of Aristotle (left brain) and Plato (right brain). Ekphrasis is a literary apparatus or device, an intersection of the literary and visual arts, with a particular emphasis on form and experimentation - a description of art is so expressive that your reader can imagine it in detail. John Keats' famous "Ode on a Grecian Urn" is one well-known ekphrasis, a detailed reflection on a specific work of art.

Each visual artwork is displayed next to its written counterpart. Some of the best authors and artists in the area contributed 96 total works—48 artworks and 48 writings hanging side by side. The exhibit includes many literary devices, including flash fiction, poetry, free verse, stories, fables, memoirs, and essays.

This collaborative exhibit is created by team members from three area arts groups: Linda Hartmann, immediate past president and Ekphrasis chair, California Writers Club - Mt. Diablo Branch (CWC), Bill Carmel, board member and curator at Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC), and Ruth Stanton, board member and vice president of exhibitions, Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA)

On May 4, the exhibit's Grand Opening began with Ali Kozol, LAC Executive Director, and Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, who welcomed guests to the event. Slideshows and presentations followed by questions from the audience to the artists and authors of three of the pairings in the Library Auditorium, with all three groups represented. The public was invited to meet and mix with artists and authors at their reception from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments and beverages were served on the terrace by professional volunteers, with in-kind donations from many of the artists, authors, Diablo Foods, and the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette provided gorgeous annuals for many guests.

The collaboration held its inaugural Ekphrasis Exhibition for one month in May 2023. We heard many people spent time with repeat visits and on the online gallery, wanting more time to see the entire show. The curator, Bill Camel, managed to hold the exhibition for two months this year, and the online gallery is exquisite. Be sure to check it out!



EKPHRASIS PROGRAM: ART GALLERY AT ORINDA LIBRARY

BY LINDA HARTMANN

ELIZABETH KENNEN – FRIDA KAHLO'S GARDEN

\$500.00

Initiator Artist: Elizabeth Kennen (LAA)

Artwork Title: Frida Kahlo's Garden

Size: 20"x24" framed

Medium: Watercolor

Price: \$500

Responder Author: Nannette Rundle Carroll (CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch)

Read by David George (CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch)

Writing Title: In Frida Kahlo's Garden

Size: 11"x17"

NFS

The entire world is invited into your garden sixty years after you left us. Did you ever imagine Casa Azul—the source of your life and art—would become a museum to keep your story alive? Would this lush courtyard, your refuge from suffering and inspiration for immortality, be replicated internationally? So, can people who cannot tour this haven smell your gardenias and prick their fingers on the tall Organ Pipe Cacti?

Here is your garden; I see you washing your feet in the shallow reflecting pool, rinsing away his infidelities with your sister and countless other women. Your tears mix with the water spouting from the fountain.

You stare at the pyramid he built, adorned with Indigenous Mexican art your ancestors shaped. Does the clay-fired dog statuette make you smile? Do you *ever* smile? In your many self-portraits, your unibrow appears pinched in a frown and your lips tightly drawn. Were you depicting your chronic pain and romantic torment?

Here, within the cobalt-blue walls of your oasis, did you not foresee that you would emerge from the shadow of the great muralist? That you would earn fame, not just as his wife, but for your own art?

Your feet ripple the cool water in the mosaic pool, distorting the image of the frog on the tile floor. Frog—what you called Diego. The corners of your mouth curve up. He encouraged your genius and helped you embrace yourself as a painter. Even before the eclectic group of artists, writers, and photographers in San Francisco energized you to become a serious artist.

A decade later, you returned to California, newly divorced. Immediately thereafter, you remarried Rivera in San Francisco City Hall, despite the turbulence in your marriage, which you had to know would recur.

Was he as upset with your dalliances as you were with his? While in your garden, did Trotsky craft a crown of bougainvillea for your raven hair? Did your other famous lovers treasure the dahlias' showy blooms and hear your parrots sing? When you picked up and cuddled the baby monkey that played among the plants, did you think about the son you longed for?

In your loving moments with Diego in your garden, did you feed him bittersweet pomegranate seeds? Did you wipe orange juice from his chin? Did you share watermelon and savor its sweetness, like the sweet part of your love?



LANCE JACKSON – VERASPHERE

Why did you both paint watermelons as your last works? Colorful lives entwined to the end.

Your brilliant art endures, as does your vibrant garden.

“Viva la Vida.” Long Live Life!

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\$1,500.00

Artist Initiator: Lance Jackson (LAC)

Title: Verasphere

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$1500

Author Responder: Bill Carmel (LAC)

Title: veraSphere

Price: \$100 Donation to LAC

There used to be places for all living things to birth, grow, thrive, age, and then fold into other things. Living things coexisted, and there was enough for all.

Living things make things. So much activity making things: things that contain, things that adorn, things that convey, things that make other things. Living things discard many things that aren't needed anymore. Discarded things collect into heaps of junk and decay into toxic stuff that contaminates the waters, the land, and the air. Very sad!

There are many living things that collect some of these discarded things from the heaps of junk. Vera is a living thing that selects and collects lots of junk. Vera makes things with this junk that adorns other living things.

Then, the adorned living things dance, make music, and parade on black tar roads. The adorned things adorn the land; the sky and the waters dance with them. Even though Vera and the other living things are filled with things that will kill them, they create and recreate as they make art from junk. This is the sphere that Vera calls into being.

The sphere that Vera creates is vital to my life. Within this great sphere, living things adorn themselves and then sing and dance. The vibrations from these celebrations heal me. Rejoice!

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HELEN CHU-HIRSCHBERG – SUSHI DREAM

\$425.00

Initiator Artist: Helen Chu-Hirschberg (LAA)

Artwork Title: Sushi Dream

Size:

Medium: Watercolor

Price: \$425

Responder Author: Margie Witt (CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch)

Writing Title: A Word of Warning

Size: 11"x17"

Price: \$10

If you were a cat and you found your master creating a mountain of sushi, wouldn't you expect a few tasty morsels to land in your food dish? Stop dreaming. Although it may seem tempting, you should know a few things.

First of all, vinegar is used to flavor that cold, sticky rice. In my humble opinion, vinegar is better used as a household cleaning agent. Even though it smells kinda of bad, it does neutralize the floor when we miss the litter box.

You know that little curlicue clump of green paste you call wasabi? If it were true wasabi, we could sample some of that with a few harmless sneezes. However, unless we are in Japan, it's probably imitation wasabi (a blend of horseradish and mustard) and likely to cause gastroenteritis if we indulge.

The garnishes may be appealing to humans. I don't care much for ginger, and minced scallions make me vomit (in fact, did you know onions are toxic to cats?).

None of us cats can understand why humans spend so much effort to mold their sushi into intricate works of art. We admire their creativity, but when it comes down to it, it's all the same stuff, just in different packages.

The best sushi for cats might be Nigiri, a simple oval-shaped mound of rice, the perfect vessel for a tasty piece of raw fish. I find Makizushi tempting, but no cat wants to dig through the wall of seaweed that holds the tiny morsel we love buried in rice. The same goes for the hand-rolled Temaki; seaweed cones might be convenient finger food for humans, but they're not paw-friendly to us felines.

A word of caution. The Uni is a burr-shaped creature that lurks between rocks in the ocean, known around here as a sea urchin. While Uni may be a premium ingredient, you might want to know that your sushi's delectable tidbit is sea urchin gonads. Enough said about that!

One more thing: could someone explain why a caterpillar roll doesn't come with a caterpillar?

Why not just skip all these extra ingredients and pass the sashimi?

Pawnote: Cats should never eat raw fish because of allergies, parasites, mercury, PCBs, ethoxyquin, and thiaminase.

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Below are all Ekphrasis Exhibition 2024 participants with titles of their work. Click on the artist name at this link to see the response from the author.

LAA ARTIST'S NAME	TITLE OF ARTWORK	ORG	AUTHOR'S NAME	TITLE OF WRITING	ORG
Adrienne Rogers	Thread Spools	LAA	Stephanie Denman	THE RED THREAD	LAC
Andrew Dodd	The Wave	LAA	Barry Hampshire	KING CANUTE ON THE ROCKS	CWC
Anne Rabe	Carp River Peony	LAA	Stephanie Denman	THE PINK PARTY	CWC
Annette Laurel Batchelor	Crocket Ranch	LAA		MAGICAL TIMES AT THE FARM	CWC
Arlynn Bloom	Her Love	LAA	Colleen Gonzalez	HER LOVE	CWC
Arlynn Bloom	Jam Session	LAA	Jim Gunshinan	SAXOPHONE SOUNDS	CWC/ LAC

Charlene Steen	Nightmare	LAA	Brian Shea	NIGHTMARE	CWC
Cynthia Whitchurch	Honu Afloat	LAA	Elana O'Loskey	THE SECRET LIFE OF SEA TURTLES	LAC
Dalia Alekna	The Book Smuggler	LAA	John Barry	THE BOOK SMUGGLER	LAC
Dave Manousos	The Release	LAA	Linda Hartmann	ELEGY	CWC
Dinah McFarlane	Lunar	LAA	Al Garrotto	LUNAAR ECLIPSE	CWC
Donna Arganbright	Whapsody in Blue	LAA	John Barry	WRAPSODY IN BLUE	LAC
Ebba Navas	Thoughts at Sunrise	LAA	Cynthia Leonard	THOUGHTS AT SUNRISE	CWC
Elizabeth Kennen	Frida Kahlo's Garden	LAA	Nannette Rundle Carroll	IN FRIDA KAHLO'S GARDEN	CWC
Helen Chu-Hirschberg	Sushi Dream	LAA	Margie Witt	A WORD OF WARNING	CWC
Jane Russell	Dream	LAA	Jim Gunshinan	RELATIONSHIPS	CWC/ LAC
Jennifer Granat	AtD I	LAA	Michael Barrington	At D 1	CWC
Joe Bologna	Scavenger	LAA	Bill Carmel	SCAVENGER	LAC
John Nakanishi	Syncopation	LAA	John Barry	SYNCOPATION	LAC
Judith Rohrer	Holding On	LAA	Peter Dudley	MOSAIC	CWC
Judith Rohrer	The March	LAA	Linda Hartmann	SHE MARCHES ON	CWC
Kerima Swain	Lady At the Gable Mansion	LAA	Al Garrotto	LOVELY LADY DRESSED IN BLUE	CWC
Marilyn Jia	The Artist Proof	LAA	Elana O'Loskey	I'M A MARKED WOMAN	LAC
Mark Coffey	Sailing Through a Field of Dreams	LAA	Bill Carmel	SONG OF THE WIND	CWC
Nina Krebs	Beware the Gilded Toad	LAA	Ophelia (Leong) Turner	SONG OF THE GILDED TOAD	CWC

Rosemary Therkelsen	Provence	LAA	Stephanie Rickman	ROUTE DU SEL (SALT ROAD)	CWC
Ruth Stanton	Slice of Life	LAA	B. Lynn Goodwin	CATITUDE	CWC
Samantha McNally	Penguins	LAA	Anindita Basu	PENGUIN	CWC
Sharon Tama	Hindsight	LAA	Jill Hedgecock	TOO LATE?	CWC/ LAC
LAC ARTISTS NAME	TITLE of ARTWORK	LAC	AUTHOR NAME	TITLE of WRITING	ORG
Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6
Kaleo Ching	Ancestral Cairns	LAC	Jennifer Granat	STRINGYBARK	CWC/ LAC
Kaleo Ching	Excavations	LAC	Elise Diriam Ching	EXCAVATIONS	CWC
Kaleo Ching	By Night		Elise Diriam Ching	BY NIGHT	CWC
Bill Carmel	What I Learned in Third Grade	LAC	Brian Shea	WHAT I LEARNED IN CWC THIRD GRADE	CWC
Bill Carmel	Desdemona Midnight's	LAC	Jennifer Granat	FOUL DECEIPT	CWC
Bill Carmel	Dragon's Breath	LAC	Marlene Dotterer	DRAGONS OF JUPITER AT PLAY	CWC
John Barry	Read My Lips	LAC	Sarah Vickers	READ MY LIPS	CWC
John Barry	Daybreak	LAC	Ann Marie Kadie	SAY HELLO	
Lance Jackson	Verasphere	LAC	Bill Carmel	VERASPHERE	LAC
Dina Bogan	Landscape of the Soul	LAC	Sarah Vickers	LANDSCAPE OF SOUL	CWC
Rachael Fite	Clown	LAC	Arthur Cabral	CLOWN	CWC
Briana Van den Berg	Golden Hawk	LAC	Fran Cain	OH, TO FLY	CWC
Stacy Spell	One Happy Dog	LAC	Louise Moises	HAPPY DOG	LAC
Jill Hedgecock	Shared Joy	LAC/CWC	Bill Carmel	SHARED JOY	LAC
Jane Martin	Spirit	LAc	Ophelia Turner	THE SPIRIT OF THE SECRET SHRINE	CWC

Bela Watson	Beeing	CWC	Dot Edwards	BEEOCRACY	CWC
Anonymous	Cheeta	LAC	Senait Mesfin Piccigallo	SWALLOWING THE SUN	CWC
Judith Feins	Hydrangeas, Farmers Market	LAC	Linda Hartmann	WILD HYDRANGEAS	CWC/ LAC CWC
Salman Ansari	The Fox's Tails	LAC	Elana O'Loskey	OUTFOXED	LAC