



A ROOM OF THEIR OWN

Women Artists of the Sierra

September 30 - November 28, 2021



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A ROOM OF THEIR OWN

As I sit down to write the introduction for this exhibition, I nervously check CAL FIRE's incident map updates, gritting my teeth as I watch the Caldor Fire grow and burn through our beautiful forests and communities. I think of the 24,000+ residents of El Dorado County who are evacuated and displaced, many of whom have lost their homes to the flames. Organizing an exhibition seems a paltry effort in comparison to the tireless work of firefighters from across the nation or the shelter organizers and volunteers who are sustaining the spirits and well-being of evacuees. Not to mention the continued presence of a global pandemic.

The story of art, though, is the story of us. The story of people and community and the experiences and identities therein. When we as viewers look at an artwork and can see something of ourselves in it, feel some intangible movement inside of ourselves, this is a spark of connection – a sense of shared experience, of recognizing the “other” in the “self.” So maybe, in continuing to organize this show in the midst of a season of crisis at both the local and global levels, we're working to create a space for connection, a kind of neutral zone, a space for respite in the midst of the chaos. The exhibition space is one for reflection and appreciation, for our unique region and its capacity for resilience.

It's perhaps an important coincidence that the show we're planning during this time is one celebrating a moment of victory and an important marker in the timeline of social progress: the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Inspired by the 101st anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S., *A Room of Their Own: Women Artists of the Sierra* is a nod to the tireless labors of women past and the continued intersectional work toward agency and equity. With this in mind, Arts and Culture El Dorado is taking this opportunity to open our gallery to the vibrant creative work of women artists in our broader community. Reading through the history of the women's suffrage movement, I was struck by the persistence and endurance of its architects, qualities that are undeniably paralleled in the history of women artists' struggle for visibility and recognition – qualities that we undoubtedly are grasping at this particular moment in history.

The road to women's suffrage in the U.S. was long and arduous, lasting over 100 years. Even after women won the right to vote in August 1920, when the 19th Amendment was ratified, many women continued to be denied this assertion of agency and citizenship. Either through Jim Crow-like voter suppression tactics or legal exclusions, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, not all women of our nation were welcome at the polls. On into the 1970s women were not able to open their own bank accounts or open a line of credit without a spousal cosigner. Today, women are commonly paid less than their male colleagues for equal work; stratification of the pay scale is further complicated by the intersectionality of race and gender privilege.

The story of art itself is, of course, rife with the historical inequities of gender, race, and class. The title of this show, *A Room of Their Own*, is a reference to the seminal essay, “A Room of One's Own” (1929) by Virginia

Woolf, in which the writer grapples with the constraints placed on women's creative careers. Woolf draws a direct link between the social, political, and financial limitations placed on women and the equally tight restrictions on their creative work and prospects for commercial success.

Take the example of Lee Krasner, an accomplished artist in her own right, but who is commonly remembered as "Mrs. Jackson Pollock." Krasner was experimental, talented, and active in a well-known group of 1930s artists and intellectuals referred to as the Artists Union. Despite this, she suffered the pitfalls of rampant misogyny; the quality of her work was described by her colleagues as "[...] so good, you would not know it was by a woman." During the height of her husband's, Jackson Pollock's, own artistic career, Krasner was forced to take on the responsibility of dealing with the practical matters of daily life, forgoing her own artistic practice. It wasn't until ten years after Pollock's death in 1956 that Krasner's own reputation began to slowly grow. Although Woolf's essay was written nearly 100 years ago, and Krasner passed away in 1984, women artists of all mediums still struggle to gain recognition and validation for their artistic achievements. Artist collectives such as Guerilla Girls continue to gain traction and notoriety with their design-based activism (fig. 1).

So with all this in mind, we at Arts and Culture El Dorado want to dedicate our gallery space this fall to the incredible creative voices of the women in our community. Though this show is inspired by the historical conditions described above, it is really about bringing together a community of creative women from across El Dorado County. This county is a place where people live to create: to build a homestead, to raise livestock, to grow food and sustain a community, to nurture and protect our natural surroundings, to build a unique small business and culinary culture, and, of course, to produce creative work. Women are leaders in all these endeavors, and I can't think of a better time to celebrate what has been hard won and the changes we can work together to create from here.

-Marya Osucha, Exhibitions Manager

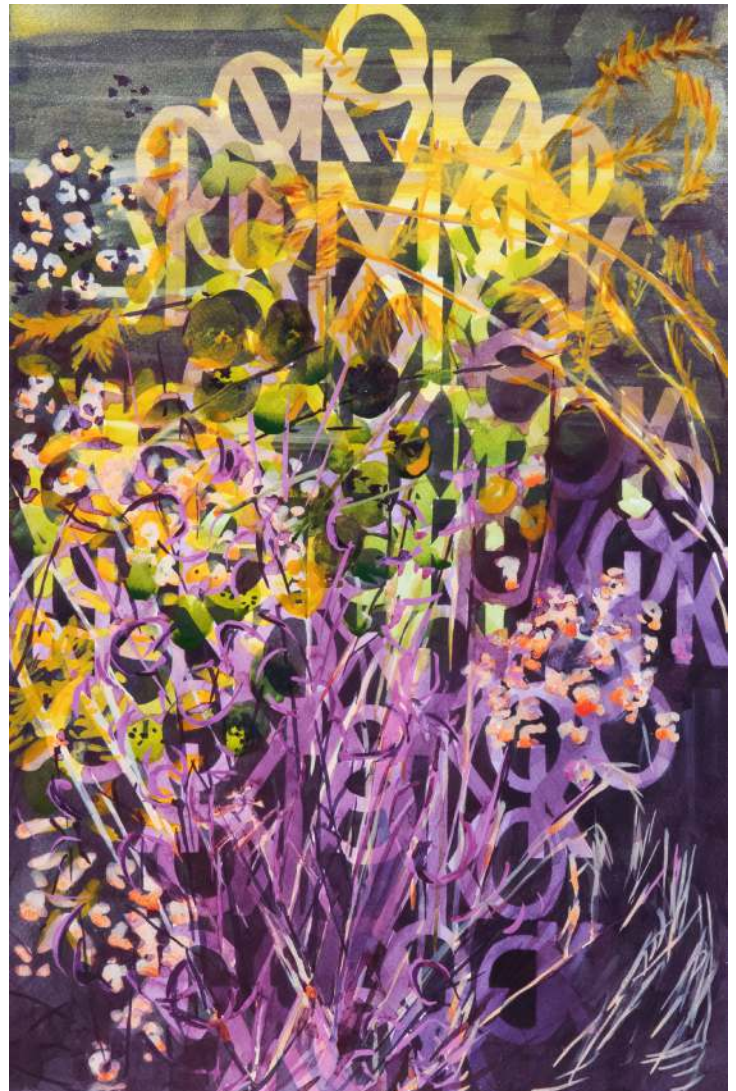


Fig. 1



Julia Schwadron Marianelli
Study (Fireweed 2), 2018
 Acrylic ink on paper

Julia Schwadron Marianelli
Study (Dry Bouquet), 2018
 Acrylic ink on paper





Irene Yesley, *My Journey*, 2021, Acrylic on plexi



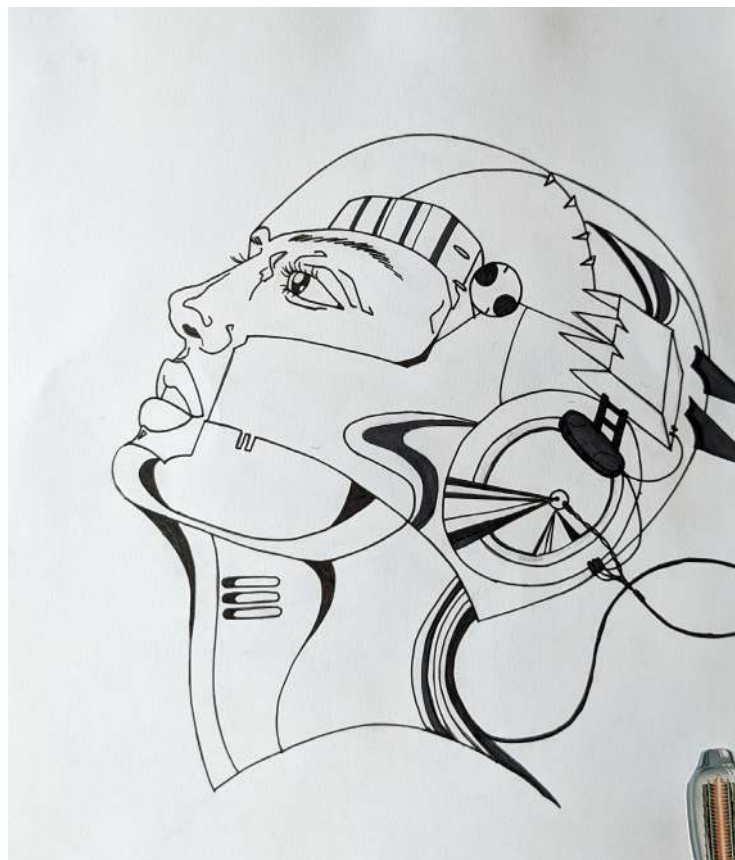
Irene Yesley
Avenir, 2020
Acrylic on plexi



Alison Tomei
Sisters All, 2019
Acrylic on canvas



Nia Henderson
Capturing an Eclipse, 2021
 Pen and ink on paper



Nia Henderson
Robot Dreams, 2021
 Pen and ink on paper



Katie Morris, *Heart of Gold*, 2010, Porcelain



Katie Morris
Reception, 2020
Porcelain



Katie Morris
Two Blooming Trees with Roots, 2013
Porcelain



Kerry Dolan
Supernova, 2019
Pampas grass

Dolores Morrison
Humulus lupulus, *Hops*, 2016
Watercolor on paper



Dolores Morrison, *Dudleya brittonii*, *Giant chalk dudleya*,
2018, Watercolor on paper



Shirley Manfredi, *Common Tern*, 2020
Oil on canvas



Shirley Manfredi
Sideshow Allure, 2015
Oil on canvas

Mehri Yazdani
Flight, 2020
Acrylic on canvas





Suzanne Haydu
Bioresilience, 2019
 Watercolor with mixed media



Terri Crisp
*The Life of a Kurdish
 Woman's Hands*, 2015
 Photograph



Laurel Ferreira
Luna Moth
2020
Block print



Laurel Ferreira
*Rattlesnake
and Poppy Dream*
2020
Block print



Laurel Ferreira
Dogwood
2021
Block print



Laurel Ferreira
Femme + Feral
2021
Block print



Cherie Hacker
Universal Dreamer, 2020
 Mixed media



Cherie Hacker
Enchanted, 2016
 Oil, ink, paper, latex, and conté on canvas

Jaime Lanouette
Pan-nak', 2021
 Mixed media



Jaime Lanouette
Pawenan, 2021
 Mixed media



Terry Roscoe
Home, 2016
 Oil on canvas

Erin Wyner
*Tangerines:
 Hooverville
 Orchards*
 2021
 Watercolor
 on paper



Margie Lopez Read
Go There, 2020
 Oil on canvas





Steph Gabler
Vineyard
Dogwood, 2020
 Photograph



Sharon Diehl
Double Weave Wall Hanging, 2019
 Acrylic, cotton, and wool yarn



Steph Gabler
Floating By, 2020
 Photograph

ARTIST BIOS

Terri Crisp - Creativity has always defined Terri's life, whether drawing or capturing the often-overlooked details in life with her camera. She's been fortunate to travel extensively around the world.

Sharon Diehl - Sharon is a local fiber artist who works primarily in fabric and yarn. A recent student of spinning and weaving, she thrives on and loves working with colors and textures.

Kerry Dolan - Kerry's love language is through food and flower that she designs and offers you. Her work is primal, lush, and abundant.

Laurel Ferreira - Laurel grew up in El Dorado County and creates block carvings inspired by nature. The majority of her work was carved during COVID quarantine.

Steph Gabler - Steph has been a resident of El Dorado County for over 25 years, and has spent much of that time photographing all over the Western United States.

Cherie Hacker - Cherie spent over twenty years raising her daughters in El Dorado County where she has exhibited in galleries, participated in community events, and was an Artist-in-Residence throughout EDC schools.

Suzanne Haydu - Suzanne has shown her art at Phoenix Art Gallery, Twenty-Twenty Eyes, Hang it Up Gallery, Sacramento Democratic Headquarters, Gallery 48, Synapse Wines, A Well Hung Art Collective, Iron Willow Gallery and Studio, and the Bank of America Gallery at Harris Center, Folsom Lake College.

Nia Henderson - Nia is a young artist born and raised in El Dorado County. Her creations often depict imagery loosely based on science fiction and her own imagination.

Jaime Lanouette - Jaime, Nisenan of the Shingle Springs Band, is a weaver and student of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) who grew up on the Rancheria. The artwork *Pawenan* is named after the people of her ancestors village, and *Pan-nak'* means acorn woodpecker in Valley Nisenan.

Margie Lopez Read - Margie is a local artist specializing in oil and pastel media, both in the studio and plein air. She uses her art to generate funds for non-profit organizations through a project she has identified as "Donation Art."

Shirley Manfredi - Shirley graduated with honors from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1981 with a B.A. in Studio Art. Her narrative paintings evolve from bits of visual information and are incorporated to present a dialogue with the viewer.

Katie Morris - Katie earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Alfred University. She has enjoyed artist-in-residence positions at both the Mendocino Art Center and Sonoma Community Center.

Dolores Morrison - Dolores is a lifelong gardener and student of everything in the natural world. She enjoys observing and learning about plants, especially California natives, as they move through their life cycles.

Terry Roscoe - Terry has been expressing her interpretation of social struggles through poetry and painting since the 60s. Influenced by the explosion in freedom of expression during that time, she continues to paint in her own unique style.

Julia Schwadron Marianelli - Julia currently lives and works in South Lake Tahoe, CA, with her husband and two kids. She is an Assistant Professor in the Fine Arts Department, as well as the Assistant Director for the MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts at Sierra Nevada University.

Alison Tomei - Alison is an intuitive artist, Creative Living Coach, Spiritual Practitioner, and owner of Sacred Arts Studio in Placerville. Alison believes that creativity is a powerful tool that can be used for connection, stress reduction, problem solving, and personal evolution, as well as healing trauma and assisting in times of transition.

Erin Wyner - Erin is a painter from Placerville who aims to share love and joy in all she creates. As Erin learns more and more about painting with watercolor, she paints to challenge herself, but also to find peace at creating and sharing something beautiful.

Mehri Yazdani - Mehri's paintings evolve from her love for the art of ancient Persia, Greece, Egypt, and of literature. Semi-abstract images give form to ancient motifs.

Irene Yesley - Irene is a Northern California painter and printmaker whose work reflects her passion for the shapes of objects and the spaces between them.

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Arts and Culture El Dorado's mission to promote, connect, and empower arts and culture throughout the county is achieved by targeted programs and services, a vibrant gallery exhibition series, and a focus on initiatives which support and sustain the cultural life of the region.



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