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ARTS/99

The publication of Arts and Culture El Dorado



Investing in the Creative Economy

THIS ISSUE

UNDIVIDED COMMUNITY

Dear Reader,

The topics covered in this issue all concern, in one way or another, community—the ways that we create and enrich it, the ways that it benefits those who belong to it, and the ways that we can guide its future evolution without losing sight of its past. The California Creative Corp invests enormous resources in our community for projects designed to improve the wellbeing of our community. *Detail + Materials: Works by Claudine Granthem* celebrates the work of a longtime El Dorado County resident, picking out an intergenerational through-line in the artistic community of the foothills. The Public Art Plan brings the community together to collaboratively create a plan for the installation of public art that all of us will be able to enjoy. Concerts for a Cause, Art on the Divide, and Music on the Divide all enrich the community with opportunities for arts appreciation.

These are not just constituent parts or instances of community. These are forces that act on community, shaping it or focusing it or enhancing it; these are also forces that act on our region more generally to create a sense of community where it may not have existed before. If there are social-centrifugal forces that fling us to the lonely edges of our societies, away from each other and away from common ground, then these community-enhancing, community-building projects and programs are centripetal forces, drawing us to a center, closer to each other and onto common ground.

ARTS/99

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COVER IMAGE *Inset* by Claudine Granthem



CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE: BUILDING WATERSHED RESILIENCE

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On Saturday, August 12, a sellout crowd gathered at Wakamatsu Farm to attend a Red Dirt Ruckus concert; attendees got pizza from the Marco's Café food truck and purchased wine, beer, and merchandise as the evening progressed. The event was part of American River Conservancy's new concert series, "Concerts for a Cause", which raises funds for their Resilience Reserve.

The Resilience Reserve helps the Conservancy manage, repair, and restore its protected properties. The fund fosters a more resilient future for the American River and Cosumnes River watersheds by increasing the Conservancy's capacity to respond to unexpected events such as catastrophic wildfires, flooding, mudslides, and other natural disasters. The severe damage that resulted from flooding in the Winter of 2023 is a recent example of the increasingly frequent and devastating disasters that threaten our riparian lands and the ecosystems and recreational industries that they support. In her speech before the concert, ARC Development Manager Melissa Lobach explained the unique importance of the Resilience Reserve: "If you have your own land, you know how hard it is to keep up with regular repairs. Now imagine having to keep

up with 13,000 acres. We do it with a lot of love and passion in our hearts, but it also takes money."

The concert series, which began June 17 with Lantz Lazwell & the Vibe Tribe and concludes September 9 with the Nipper Brothers, has broad benefits beyond its core mission to support the Resilience Reserve. It supports local artists and businesses, increases public awareness of Wakamatsu Farm and the thriving gold country music scene, and enriches the community by providing fun, affordable opportunities for musical appreciation and communal experience. "We wouldn't be where we're at without our community," Melissa explains. "We like to make them feel good, and experiences of music and art are one of those aspects that reach a lot of different, diverse people. It's one of our outreach tools, and we're excited to be able to do so many concerts this year."

To support the Resilience Reserve without attending a concert, you can learn more about it and make a donation on American River Conservancy's website: arconservancy.org/arcr



Photos courtesy of American River Conservancy

DETAILS + MATERIALS: A LANDSCAPE DEEPLY HUMAN



Claudine Granthem
Inside Outside, 2001
Painted cloth,
metal on wood

D*etails + Materials: Works by Claudine Granthem* is the newest exhibition in Arts and Culture El Dorado's Switchboard Gallery, located at 525 Main Street. The exhibition, which runs through Sunday, October 8, honors the work of long-time El Dorado County resident Claudine Granthem, whose viscerally evocative work, at once architectural and deeply human, immerses us in a landscape of slippery categories and contradictions.

Claudine has been making art in El Dorado County for decades, but she is less old guard than avant garde; her raw, unsparing examinations of the human body still have the capacity to shock, striking the viewer as urgent, vital, and uncompromising. Marya Osucha, Exhibitions Curator at Arts and Culture El Dorado, was "blown away" by the work she encountered in Claudine's Camino studio space. "It was surprising, almost like a little punch to the gut," Marya recounts. "It was like being let in on a really intimate and powerful secret." Marya jumped at the opportunity to display Claudine's work in Switchboard.

The title of the exhibition—two abstract terms arranged almost schematically around a mathematical symbol—stands in powerful counterpoint to the organic, human immediacy of the work, which swells beyond the linear dimensions of the canvas, preferring intestine curves and bone-jagged edges to the impersonal precision of Euclidean geometry. "Details

+ Materials" refers to a kind of second order response to the work, a sense of the formula behind the reaction: "Because she uses such a wide variety of materials in each work—unexpected uses of burlap or bits of bone—the materials coalesce to make the work so much more powerful and unexpected. All the little details draw the viewer in to examine each piece really carefully," Marya explains. The title, then, with its emphasis on the form beneath the feeling, is both an inversion and an echo of Claudine's aesthetic approach, which enjoins us to respond with our bodies rather than our minds, to consider the physical, perishable substrate of our intellect and spirit. "Her work is about humanity and mortality," Marya reflects.



Claudine Granthem
Window Dressing, 1999
Mixed media



Claudine Granthem
Metamorphic, c. 1985, Paintstick on paper

"It makes us look at the real material, animal quality that we want to ignore, because we want to be in our brains."

The work is physically grounded in another way, too, making implicit reference to a sense of place. "With a lot of her materials, she is reusing the detritus of rural life," Marya observes. "With the twine and burlap, those are objects that in another image could be symbolic of rural life if they were configured in a different way." The importance of the region for Claudine's work is matched, in Marya's estimation, by Claudine's importance to the region. Claudine was part of a creative scene in the foothills that has largely disappeared, but whose influence reverberates still in the region's contemporary artistic community. "Her work is rippling, and that ripple is going to continue to expand. It won't go away or be forgotten. I hope that this show leads to intergenerational connection and a valuing of our elders."

For those who view the exhibition in Switchboard Gallery, Marya hopes that Claudine's work will "take their breath away." For young artists, it can serve as inspiration and example: "I hope that it will inspire them in their use of material and in the way that she manages to extract all of that thought and feeling from the viewer, but not in a way that is overwrought or too literal." For the rest of us, it can just be an enjoyable experience: "There is a lot of fun to be had just in discovering all of the little details in the pieces."

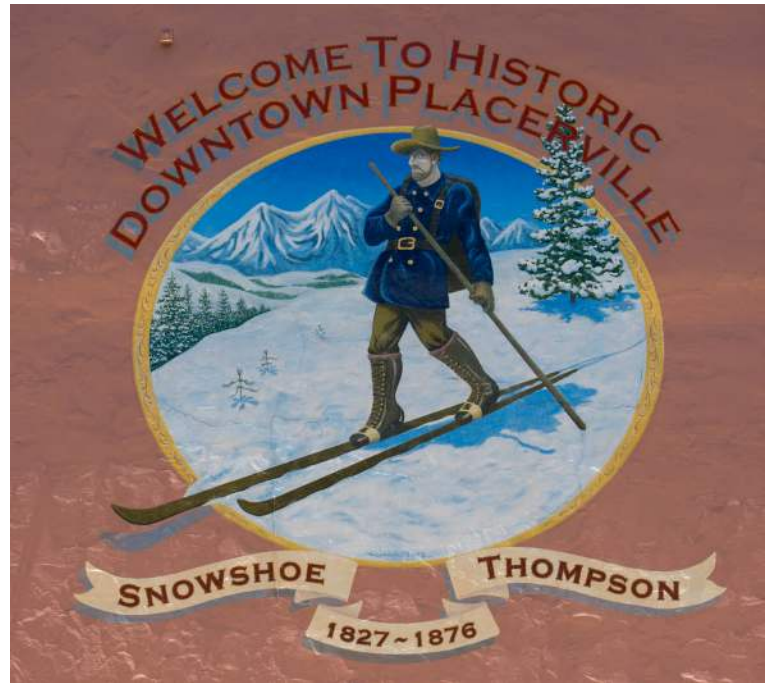


Claudine Granthem, *Ana Revisited*, c. 2001, Mixed media

A Plan for Art in Public Spaces

Communities need art. It enhances our understanding of self and other, enables communication and self-expression, and enriches our collective experience. Art and its benefits can be found in almost every facet of communal life: Students receive arts instruction in schools; families bond during movie nights; friends gather at concerts. With Netflix binges or books on the beach, we use art to be comfortably alone; with book clubs or group outings to festivals, we use art to connect on a more intimate level with our friends, family, and community.

Perhaps the most visible—and, paradoxically, perhaps the least appreciated—form of art in any community is what can be termed “public art”: sculptures, murals, architecture, and art from every medium that can be found in public spaces. Public art can be just as diverse and idiosyncratic as the community that produces it. It can be a key register of a community’s collective voice, a medium through which a town can tell its own tale. It can be employed in the service of entertainment for locals, or as a lure for tourists. It can beautify public spaces, or, by challenging us, it can transform a public space into the proverbial town square, an occasion for discussion and the free exchange of ideas and perspectives.



In Placerville, public art is all around us. Consider Snowshoe Thompson tromping down Main Street, or landmarks like the Bell Tower and the Druid Monument. But who decides what art goes where, and how do they decide?

With the adoption of a comprehensive Public Art Plan, the City of Placerville will codify the answers to those questions, creating guidelines that will clear the way for a public art renaissance in Placerville. The Plan will also identify potential revenue streams for public art, which will help bring to fruition the art that comes before the Council.

Arts and Culture El Dorado, with the support of a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, undertook the development of the Public Art Plan under the leadership of Executive Director Terry LeMoncheck. “The Plan will be a tool for the City Council to consider our civic identity,” LeMoncheck explains. “When people are making decisions about art, it’s almost impossible not to put their own aesthetic opinions into the mix. That is what makes us human—we all have opinions about art. That’s why a series of policies and guidelines is an important tool to facilitate the process of making decisions about public art.”

Emerging organically from discussions with the public, the Plan will allow for the creation of public art that reflects the perspectives and tastes of the community rather than the personal preferences of select decision makers. The discussions from which the Plan will emerge are open forums; the public is encouraged to attend and share their thoughts. By the end of the process, the raw material of community input will have crystallized into a concrete rubric by which to assess proposed works of art and a blueprint for their installation in public places.

Barbara Goldstein and her consulting firm Art Builds Community have been engaged to precipitate that crystallization. Barbara Goldstein is a longtime champion of public art and a renowned expert in the field. Art Builds Community will canvass the community for input and conduct research—including historical research—in order to develop



their recommended Public Art Masterplan, which will then be revised in collaboration with key stakeholders. Ultimately, the Plan will be presented to the Placerville City Council for final review and approval.

The collaborative, community-centric process from which the Plan will emerge is a reflection of the ethos of public art itself, which is for all of us, by any of us, merging the individual, discrete contributions and perspectives of individuals in a community with their collective heritage and mutual purpose.

There is still time to have your voice heard!

**Share your ideas for public art in Placerville
by filling out the form at**

ArtsAndCultureElDorado.org/public-art-questions

Investing in the Creative Economy

A major investment has been made in El Dorado County's creative economy: \$803,000. That is the amount of money that local artists, non-profits, and tribal organizations have been granted for projects that employ artists to create awareness around public health; water and energy conservation and climate mitigation, emergency preparedness relief, and recovery; civic engagement; and social justice. The grants, which were awarded and disbursed by the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture, are part of a larger campaign called the California Creative Corps, a sweeping initiative headed up by the California Arts Council that touches all 58 counties with a total of \$60 million in grants.

In El Dorado County, Arts and Culture El Dorado took on a leadership role to ensure that the grants were accessible to the artists and organizations who most deserved them—and, in a broader sense, to ensure that our community could benefit from the vitally important projects that the grants will fund. Marya Osucha, Exhibitions Curator and Special Projects Manager at Arts and Culture El Dorado, spearheaded these efforts. “We served as outreach coordinators to make sure that the opportunity was communicated,” Marya explains. “We held workshops, I sent out a ton of targeted emails, and I met with individual artists who had great ideas and tried to connect them with cross-sector organizations who might be willing to apply. If a project met the criteria for fiscal sponsorship, then Arts and Culture El Dorado was able to act as that fiscal sponsor.” In addition to acting as fiscal sponsor for several grantees through its Arts Incubator program, Arts and Culture El Dorado also received a grant for its own project, “Sierra Re-Leaf”.

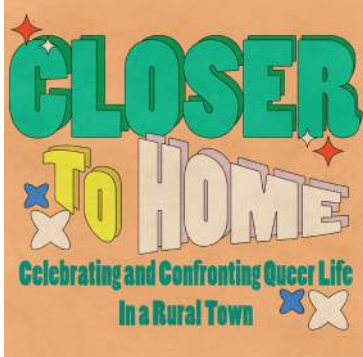
The immediate positive impact on our community is twofold: First, an influx of money into the County represents a windfall not just for local artists, but also for the local vendors, venues, and professional networks that will be involved in their projects; Second, the projects themselves will enrich our culture and edify the public. “The programs that have received funding are designed to make a significant, felt, practical impact in the community,” Marya says. “It’s going to contribute significantly to our regional wellbeing, and it will kind of put El Dorado County culture into technicolor.”



Andie Thrums, *For the Earnest Resilience of Plants*
2020, Mixed media on kozo paper over canvas

THE PROJECTS:

Closer to Home: Celebrating and Confronting Queer Life in a Rural Town



“Closer to Home” is a project of See the Elephant, an Arts Incubator partner. With collaborating artists Jamie and Tiffany Van Camp, the founders of See the Elephant, as well as artists Gavin Sellers and Casey Ellis, “Closer to Home” will create a performance that accurately and honestly portrays experiences of being queer/LGBTQIA+ in rural, small-town Placerville.

A Children’s Ofrenda: Honoring Our Ancestors

“A Children’s Ofrenda” is a project of Sugar Skull Art Walk, an Arts Incubator partner. Organized by Program Manager Melinda Velasco, the project centers on the art and traditions of the Days of the Dead. The project’s purpose is to engage our community in creating collaborative art, to position Latinx/Indigenous art forms in places of high visibility on Placerville’s Main Street, to create space for community members to honor loved ones who have passed away, and to bridge cultural divides in our town.



Ofrenda photographs courtesy of Sugar Skull Art Walk

Sierra Re-Leaf: Wildfire Preparedness + Recovery

“Sierra Re-Leaf” is a project of Arts and Culture El Dorado, in partnership with the El Dorado Fire Safe Council, local artists, and the scientific community. The project will provide practical resources and information to prevent wildfires, in parallel with an artistic examination of the grief and anxiety left in the wake of these devastating natural disasters. The project will include exhibitions and targeted one-day events in wildfire-affected communities.

Andie Thrams
ForestSong
2020 - present

Ink, watercolor, gouache, pastel, wildfire charcoal, mica,
tree sap on Kozo paper over canvas



Art on the Divide, located at 6295 Main Street, Georgetown, is a non-profit that operates under the umbrella of Divide Friend of the Arts and Historical Society. A cooperative gallery run by local artists, AODC's mission is to maintain a community of artists, promote visual arts on the Georgetown Divide, and comingle the appreciation of the arts and the opportunity to market artistic



Music on the Divide, whose performances take place at the Georgetown I.O.O.F. Hall, is an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of Georgetown Divide residents and school children by producing culturally diverse music programs to enjoy, while also supporting and encouraging the development of musical talent among the youth of the Divide. Its concerts bring quality classical music to the community, while its Young Musicians Concert and scholarship program support local youth.



September 17, 2023 - Achilles Wheel

October 22, 2023 - Lacy J. Dalton

December 10, 2023 - Lady of The Lake

February 11, 2024 - Laurie Lewis
and the Right Hands

March 10, 2024 - Tom Rigney & Flambeau

April 14, 2024 - Young Musicians Concert

May 19, 2024 - Nick Palance, Tenor

June - Anniversary Month

September - Summer's End

October - Annual Invitational Art Show

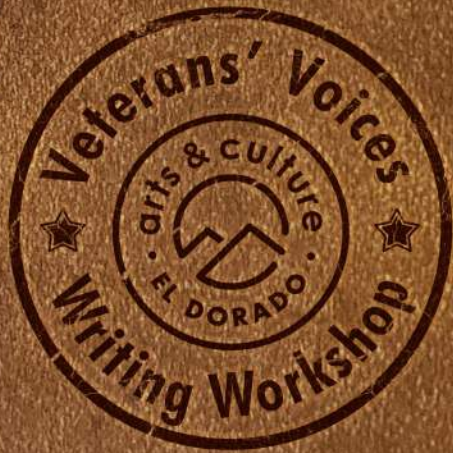
November - Feast Your Eyes

December - Music, Munchies and Marvelous Art

6295 Main Street, Georgetown, CA
Thursday - Monday • 11 am - 4 pm

ArtOnTheDivide.com

WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW?



AN ANTHOLOGY
2023

October 18 - November 5, 2023



Community Ofrendas:
Honoring Our Ancestors

Switchboard Gallery
525 Main Street

LARA GULARTE

AND

THE POETS OF THE
FIREHOUSE SESSIONS

A COLLECTION OF WORKS

EL DORADO COUNTY
POET LAUREATE
2021 — 2023

November 16, 2023 - January 28, 2024

SENDING IT:
Climbing El Dorado

Switchboard Gallery
525 Main Street



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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.