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ARTS

Left to right: Artist **CARIN GERARD** at work; studio details.



Strokes of Nature

Montecito artist **CARIN GERARD**'s new exhibit—"Resplendence" at the SCAPE Gallery, 949-723-3406, scapesite.com, in Corona del Mar through November 3—takes ordinary subjects such as butterflies or gardenias and renders them extraordinary. Yes, some of that is because of size: At 60-by-60 inches or larger, the images become monumental and majestic. But there's also an attention to detail that takes these paintings into another, almost abstract, realm. Says Gerard, "I started with butterflies and the idea of connectivity." Sculptural, sensual gardenias came next. The show also includes subtle skiescapes, which are smaller and worked in pastels. "They're more tactile, more free," she says. All the works rivet one's attention. She adds, "They capture a moment in time." **JOAN TAPPER**

CARINGERARD.COM

A selection of paintings from Pamela Zwehl-Burke, Holli Harmon, Connie Connally, Nina Warner, Nicole Strasburg, and Libby Smith.

PHOTOGRAPH: CARIN GERARD, CHRISTY GUTZEIT



Pointing the Way

For centuries, the compass rose has served as a directional tool. **ROSE COMPASS**, a group of six women artists from Santa Barbara County (Connie Connally, Holli Harmon, Libby Smith, Nicole Strasburg, Nina Warner, and Pamela Zwehl-Burke), is charting a path to increase environmental awareness through art. "The River's Journey"—the artists' individual interpretations of the Santa Ynez River and watershed—highlights the waterway's astounding beauty while emphasizing our collective responsibility to protect and preserve its existence.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience the visual power of this ambitious project. The group's larger oil paintings are featured at Sullivan Goss—An American Gallery through December 2; 65 paintings are on view at Santa Barbara's City Hall Gallery through March, 30, 2019; and the Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art is showcasing the artists' recent project-related work from January 10 through June 22. The catalog from the inaugural show at Solvang's Wildling Museum is available at Chaucer's Bookstore. **L. D. P.**

ROSE-COMPASS.COM

A Talent for Texture

Santa Barbara artist **KAREN LEHRER** loves to challenge herself. In 2017, she decided to abandon her paintbrush for an entire year—while continuing to paint. The experience changed her art-making process and prompted her to explore other mediums. Always fascinated by texture, she's drawn to surfaces that have been eroded by nature, and her paintings possess a depth that is particularly striking. Her obvious facility with color harkens back to Lehrer's days as a textile designer.

The artist was recently approached by McGaw Graphics, Inc. (a Vermont-based printer of fine art posters) to join its stable of artists, and Lehrer readily agreed, fully supporting the concept of making her art accessible at affordable prices. But Lehrer also works at the other end of the spectrum, taking commissions from collectors for custom pieces.

Working in her studio in Santa Barbara's Funk Zone has enabled Lehrer to connect with the local arts community, and she

has participated in numerous exhibitions, including the popular "100 Grand Show" at Sullivan Goss—An American Gallery. **L. D. P.**

KARENLEHRER.COM

TREASURE II, acrylic and mixed media on wood panel, 40 x 40 in.



AROUND the World

If you happen to travel to Africa, specifically to Equatorial Guinea or the Republic of Namibia, and visit their respective American embassies, you will see, prominently displayed, the work of Santa Barbara landscape artist **PHOEBE BRUNNER**, courtesy of the Art in Embassies Program.

Initiated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, the program promotes cultural diplomacy through art exhibitions in more than 200 U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide. (The total value of art on loan to the program is estimated at \$200 million.)

Brunner, a third-generation Californian and graduate of UCSB's College of Creative Studies, is well-known in Santa Barbara, having exhibited her vibrantly hued paintings locally and throughout California since the mid 1970s. Her "re-conceived" landscapes are based on childhood memories living on a coastal cattle ranch and roaming alone on horseback observing the natural world.

Brunner's work resides in both public and private collections, and she is represented by Sullivan Goss—An American Gallery. **L. D. P.**

PHOEBEBRUNNER.COM

BIG LOVE, oil on canvas, 44 x 66 in.



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