925-377-0977

## Maya Kobashigawa's Bold Aesthetics **Highlight Exhibit**

**By Sophie Braccini** 



she needs take time, often several weeks, which gives her the time to think.

Besides the Orinda Library Art Gallery, Kobashigawa shows at Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek and in Allison McCrady's aMFA gallery in Theater Square in Orinda.

The Orinda Gallery in the library building is curated by the Lamorinda Arts Council. More information can be found at www. lamorindaarts.org.

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Maya Kobashigawa in front of one of her paintings. Photo Sophie Braccini aya Kobashigawa is the fea- see a space, and I create a piece for October exhibition at the Orinda creates often large lyric pieces that evoke emotions and are highly style art has an aesthetic that fits very well with modern interiors.

The Kobashigawa family represents an eclectic mix that's perfectly at home in Lafayette. Her husband is American of Japanese ancestry (fourth generation) while Kobashigawa herself has an Indian European ancestry.

She says that the love of art was years, even though everyone in her family works in the medical field. in fact joined a television news network as a writer, then producer.

wanted to decorate her first apartshe loved, like large abstract paintings by Jackson Pollock or Wassili had been taking art classes but had started asking where she got her have that same sentiment. art, and then asked for her to paint for them, she dared to give painting a chance.

tured painter of the month of that space," says the artist. Kobashigawa is sometimes commissioned Art Gallery. An abstract artist, she or creates from her own desire. "The subject is not as important, it is more about the colors, the lightdecorative. Kobashigawa's striking ing, to transcribe an emotion," she says. She can start with spots of different acrylic colors, then she uses Pollock's technique of a wooden stick dipped in paint to create drip painting, or streaks of colors that she lets flow freely. The streaks create a rhythm and an ensemble with the color spots that are very harmofather and a Bostonian mother of nious and visually satisfying, creating a sense of balance.

Some of the pieces incorporate instilled in her since her youngest other material to the canvas. The creation called "Waterfall" is almost a 3D sculpture. On the canvas She majored in art history with the Kobashigawa has crunched a piece idea of becoming an art curator, but of fabric and added fragments of cellophane. She painted on the whole surface, mostly with streaks As a young professional she of greens, yellows and blues. She says that when she starts, she ment but could not afford the art knows mostly where the painting is going to go, what colors are going to be used, but that things can Kandinsky, so she started painting evolve as the process unfolds. In it herself. Of course all her life she an archival interview (SFMOMA. org), Pollock said that painting has never envisioned it could become a life of its own and that he tries to her profession. When her friends let it live. Kobashigawa seems to

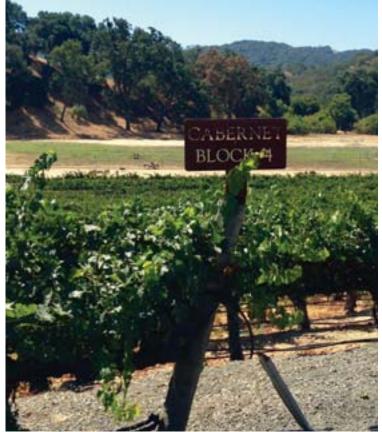
Kobashigawa can make small paintings but is often drawn to the more dramatic sense of larger "A lot of time in my work, I can pieces. The series of processes

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#### **By A.K. Carroll**



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Photo A.K. Carroll all has arrived and harvest is on and abundant harvest festivities at a  $\Gamma$  its way. While many Lamorin-fraction of the price, set your sights toward Paso Robles.

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