Hearst Art Gallery

Summer Landscape Exhibition Opens Submitted by Heidi Ehrman Donner, Hearst Art Gallery

Hearst Art Gance, lections Manager and earst Art Gallery Col-Julie Armistead have paired two of the most intriguing and gifted contemporary California landscape painters for "Town and Country: Jessica Dunne and Louis LaBrie," the 2007 biennial contemporary landscape exhibition, on view from June 2 to August 12.

Dunne's dramatic, expansive and atmospheric urbanscapes are presented alongside LaBrie's meticulously painted, jewel-like vistas in one of the most visually beguiling summer landscape exhibitions ever presented by the Saint Mary's College art museum.

Noting the complementary views of Dunne and LaBrie, exhibition catalog essayist, San Francisco Art Institute professor and former editor-in-chief,

Meredith Tromble, observes, "land forms swell beneath the roads in Dunne's works and roads carry LaBrie to his 'untouched' vistas."

"There are similarities in the methods and histories of the two painters: both artists make use of photographs, both have taproots in Photorealist and Bay Area Figurative styles. LaBrie studied with Irma Cavat and Dunne studied with Robert Bechtle, LaBrie worked for a time with Paul Wonner and Dunne has had a long-term friendship with both Wonner and William Theophilus Brown," Tromble said.

"One might imagine that human subjects are free to contemplate 'landscape' or 'country,' before safely returning to 'town.' But nature is a 360 degree system. Belief in the independence of

'town' and 'country' endangers us; their relationship is a relationship we need to understand. By witnessing the environment with their brushes, landscape painters such as Dunne and LaBrie offer a precious opportunity to think about the world

A lecture by Meredith Tromble will be Sunday, July 1, at 2 p.m. Admission \$5, free to members.

Julie Armistead will moderate an audience discussion with Dunne and LaBrie at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, in the Soda Activity Center. A reception will follow featuring Bay Area jazz trio Beep! In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Hearst Art Gallery, admission to the panel discussion and reception is free.

The 1880s marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life, beginning with the death of his wife, still life painter Elizabeth

New "William Keith:

The 1880s Paintings"

Hearst Art Gallery

Exhibition at

Emerson, in March of 1882. Some of the 1880s paintings show his increasing enthusiasm about a more reflective and subjective approach to capturing the landscape on canvas, attributed to his friendship with Reverend Joseph Worcester and Swedenborgian philosophy, which inspired him to suggest a divine presence inherent in the beauty of nature.

His 1883 marriage to Mary McHenry, attorney and leader of the suffragette movement in the Bay Area was followed by extensive travel: a stay in New York and New England before embarking on a lengthy European trip centering around a Munich sojourn, the addition of European influenced portraiture in his body of work, an 1886 trip to Alaska in John Muir's footsteps, and an 1888 trip with Muir to Lake Tahoe and Mount

Although there was a general trend in Keith's painting from tightly rendered detail and bright sunlight to broader brush strokes and darker scenes, the path was not a straightforward one. His work continued to reflect various influences, including his personal predilections and moods, art market forces, interest in the old masters, especially Rembrandt, and allegiances to friends of different art persuasions.

The exhibition opens Saturday, June 2 in the Keith Room at Saint Mary's College. An opening reception is planned for Sunday, June 3 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Hearst Art Gallery. For information, visit the gallery's Web site http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu.

Welcome to the first Teen Scene column! This one was written by one of our fabulous interns, but we'd like to invite middle and high school students to write one of your own and send it in. You may write on any topic that interests you, but please use appropriate language. Send columns to:

schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com. We'll need your name and grade, and your home phone number. Oh, and feel free to suggest a new name for the column!

Teen Scene column

Teen Scene: Summer School By Nee-Sa Lossing

Sun, beach, vacation, sleeping in, late nights. These are all things that most teens associate with the word "summer." Although I'm a teen, I don't associate these words with summer. Not this summer, at least. For me, Summer 2007 is not going to be the stereotypical sunny, beach-y, vacation-y, well-rested, party session that I had hoped, and that is all thanks to summer school.

I've never attended summer school before. I always thought that I never needed to, but since entering high school, I've realized that attending summer school for advancement is not something uncommon. When you go to a school as academically competitive as mine, it's almost encouraged, because, really, the more classes on your transcript, the better.

When I first told my mom that I wanted to sign up for summer school, she said something along the lines of, "Nee-Sa, you know you'll have to be in Lafayette at 8:00am, right?" I only live ten minutes away, but those are still ten minutes that I wouldn't be sleeping. I knew that having a jam-packed schedule next school-year would be miserable, and that although summer school would be a drag, it would spare me a lot of stress later on.

As I write this, I'm listening

to Lil Mama's "Lip Gloss," which is, according to MTV's music video show TRL, destined to be a "summer anthem." Let me tell you, this is definitely not the type of music I would usually be listening to. I guess the lurking feeling of the upcoming summer (and summer school) is making me gravitate towards anything that will somehow mask the fact that this summer may be completely horrible.

I have a plan to minimize this feeling, though. I've strategically sprinkled a couple of summer music festivals, trips to amusement parks, movie and book releases, and even a short vacation at the end of the summer into my summer schedule to keep the fun summer vibes flowing among all of the antisummer vibes emitting from summer-school.

I find that the whole concept of summer school is so ironic. Although some students have to go to make up classes from the previous school year, many students attend by choice. Students already spend nine months out of the year going to school, so why is it that so many students choose to spend their always-waited-for and greatly desired summer vacation at summer school? I don't know. What I do know though, is that I'm determined not to let summer school ruin my summer.

Louis LaBrie "Chimney Rock, Near Pt. Reyes" 2005, oil on wood 9 x 6

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