

Hearst Art Gallery

Summer Landscape Exhibition Opens

Submitted by Heidi Ehrman Donner, Hearst Art Gallery

Hearst Art Gallery Collections Manager and 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 Artweek 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 today."

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.

New "William Keith: The 1880s Paintings" Exhibition at Hearst Art Gallery


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

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 at <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>.





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