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MCC Art Exhibit Features Local Artists, and Photographer Karen Drinkwater

By Sophie Braccini



"Ready to go" by Karen Drinkwater

Photo provided

Local events and sports photographer, Karen Drinkwater, will share original pieces capturing the essence of country club events at an art exhibit scheduled Sept. 10 at the Moraga Country Club.

"Over the years I have seen dozens of amazing photos Karen has taken at Campo football games," says exhibit curator Cindy Raleigh. "When I found out that she also shoots all the events for a well known health bar, I asked her to send me some sample work. I wanted to see more than just football shots since I would be asking her to focus on golf, swimming and tennis. The light, shadows and expressions of the athletes she captures is remarkable. Karen's photos tell a story."

Drinkwater spent days at the club, familiarizing herself with the types of

events she was going to photograph. "Each sport is unique," says Drinkwater, "the actions, the regulations, need to be understood to make good shots. I met the coaches at the country club and spent days in the tennis courts, on the green and at the pool." Drinkwater photographed major swim meets, a golf tournament and a tennis competition. "One additional challenge was that the pictures needed to keep the people anonymous."

Drinkwater, who regularly exhibits her work in England, takes photographs at Cal Poly and UC Berkeley. Rugby is one of her favorite games to shoot.

Drinkwater's photography will be on display along with works by two abstract artists, Sheri Lenz and Lu

Beury. An opening reception is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10 at MCC's club house on Country Club Drive. Cost for the event is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, which includes sampling award-winning wine from WALT Wines, Sonoma, and enjoying tasty bites prepared by MCC chef Kevin Ables. For reservations, call (925) 376-2200 or email frontdesk@moragacc.com.

Drinkwater's work, which includes portraits, scenery and of course sports photography, can be seen online at karendrinkwaterphotography.com.

(Editor's note: Readers may also go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and search for "Drinkwater" to view an archive of photos she has taken for us.)

Watercolor Students put on Abstract Art Show to Honor Beloved Teacher

By Clare Varellas



Fortress 20"x26" watercolor by Jenifer Peake Kolkhorst



Subterrane 20"x26" watercolor by Jenifer Peake Kolkhorst

For over 40 years, local artist and watercolor teacher Marianne Brown has devoted three days a week to inspiring and critiquing the work of aspiring artists from around the area, teaching hundreds of students everything from colors to creativity. So after 25 years of learning from Brown's supportive comments and demonstrative brush strokes, Orinda resident and artist Jenifer Kolkhorst sought a way to honor Brown's superb teaching abilities.

"I love [Brown's] art and I love her as a teacher," said Kolkhorst. "I still take classes with her because she gives a great critique and she's always inspiring."

In the end, Kolkhorst decided to hold an art show at the Orinda Li-

brary Art Gallery as a tribute to Brown, showcasing the beautiful abstract watercolor paintings of Brown, herself, and Diane Goldstein, a San Francisco artist and a previous student of Brown's. In addition to the non-objective paintings of the three women, the ceramic work of long-time art teacher and Lafayette resident Emanuel Rosenheim will be on display in the gallery cases.

Kolkhorst, who took her first class under Brown in the late 1980s, appreciates how Brown supports her students to use their own techniques and ideas. Brown, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in artistic fields and has written articles and a book about art, specializes in

teaching experimental, abstract watercolor painting.

"It's interesting over the years to see people that come in [to Brown's classes] who are accomplished painters and want to loosen up or learn more techniques or be more experimental," said Kolkhorst. "She's a great teacher for that."

Goldstein, who studied under Brown for about seven years and felt inspired by Brown and her unique approach to art, was happy to honor Brown by participating in the exhibit.

"She would do demonstrations, where you would see her working with a technique, which were very informative," said Goldstein. "She's very open. ... continued on page B5

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