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Something fishy going on at Lafayette art gallery

By Pippa Fisher



The process of hanging and lighting the fish Oct. 1 at JPG@TheBank in Lafayette took 12 hours. Photo Pippa Fisher

opposite Diablo Foods. Perlmutter describes him as an artist. Hughes says the idea came to him as he sat at the traffic lights leaving the Safeway parking lot, looking at the building. Inspired partly by the large fish displayed outside the gallery, but perhaps more by the entry tower that he says resembles a goldfish bowl, he and Perlmutter set about recruiting artists for the project.

Perlmutter says COVID-19 was a factor in not having a huge response initially. "So Ken had a driveway party with friends one Sunday and we recruited a few gallery friends and painted over a weekend," says Perlmutter, "and now the tank is full!"

Hughes says that he wanted to let people express themselves so gave very few directions other than that the fish should be between 18- and 36-inches long. "We wanted to include all the work and we want everyone to see their work," he explains.

It took Hughes eight hours to hang the fish on Oct. 1, and another four to set up the LED strip lighting.

"I'm thrilled with it," says Perlmutter. "It's another thing to bring added beauty and levity to your day - through all the smoke and pandemic, we find a reason to smile!"

Reach the reporter at: pippa@lamorindaweekly.com

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