

Art in the Vineyard

by Kate Waterbury

Sunday afternoon on a sunny hillside in good company with good wine, good food and good music. What could be more lovely? Try adding a showing of fine art, and the chance to purchase the original works of some of the Northwest's most notable artists.

Forgeron Vineyards, near Elmira, for the third year hosts **Art in the Vineyard**. An art auction and wine tasting accompanied by fine foods and great jazz, it is co-sponsored by Eugene Rotary and Maude Kerns Art Center. Ninety artists from Eugene, other Oregon cities, Washington, and California have donated over 130 works. The sale of these during the afternoon will benefit children's art programs at Maude Kerns and the Rotary Charities' anti-drug abuse program.

Set in soft rolling hills off Hwy. 126, the vineyard offers an idyllic setting with views of the Cascade range, the Sisters peaks, the Fern Ridge reservoir. Below the winery, picnic tables dot a grassy hillside blooming with azaleas and rhododendrons among graceful trees. On a flat grassy area next to the winery is a platform topped by a 40x40 canopy. Here are displayed the works donated by area artists. There is both two dimensional and three dimensional art—oils, watercolors, pastels, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, carved wooden bowls—a full range of fine art.

Among the works displayed there is an original Ansel Adams, donated by a photographer collector who also donated a photo of his own. A pair of 14K gold earrings with freshwater pearls has been donated by Hannah Goldrich. Goldrich, whose work is displayed locally at Opus 5, also teaches at Maude Kerns. Claudia Cave from Salem has offered a graphite and colored pencil work; Roseanne Olsen, a black and white infrared photograph.

Frank Boydon, a ceramist well

known to many Eugene folks who attended his workshop this spring, has donated two pieces. Boydon's special method of firing his pots was the focus of a *Register-Guard* feature recently.

Among the paintings that will hang on the white panels under the canvas canopy at Forgeron are Andy Johnston's lovely pastel, *Fields*; Sarkis Antikajian's watercolor, *Yachats*; Lynda Lanker's oil pastel, *Skull and Cactus*; and Ellen Gabehart's watercolor, *Victorian House*.

Greg Wilbur, a Eugene artist who is also doing an outstanding job of coaching little league baseball this summer, has donated a copper container from the *Ripple* series and pewter whales of cast metal and pewter. An unusual donation of African art has been made by a Nigerian man living in Eugene. These pieces are the work of members of a tribe in his country.

Michael Pease, well known Eugene artist, created an original work for the poster publicizing **Art in the Vineyard**, a view of the Forgeron entrance appropriately representing the soft beauty of the Oregon countryside. Other artwork and materials involved in producing both the poster and the event were donated by people and businesses in Eugene.

While the auctioning of works of art is the central event of the day, many other pleasures await visitors to **Art in the Vineyard** this Sunday. A picnic lunch of cheese, fruit, french bread, and a glass of wine is yours for the ticket price. You'll also receive a commemorative wine glass and three tastes of wine. Also available, for sale, is a special imported French sausage, Boudin blanc, donated by the *Charcuterie*.

During the earlier part of the afternoon, the Eugene Jazz Orchestra will play a couple of sets of their unique big band sound. While picnicking and enjoying the

music, guests may view the works of art, all of which will be displayed throughout the entire showing. From one o'clock to three a silent auction will be taking place, as guests write their bids at the tables where the works are viewed. At three the oral auction begins. At this time, "walkers" will carry the works of art out onto the lawn, mingling among the buyers.

There is a gentleness to this event, a sense of quiet, subdued festivity. The afternoon flows, like the wine, like the river, like your mind enchanted by the work of artists who have captured the complex emotions of your world, your experience, and offered them back to you clarified.



Photograph by David Stein

This carved ebony female head was donated by a local Nigerian and is in the style of the African Hausa Tribe.



Photograph by David Stein

"Twilight Flamingos" is a serigraph donated by Carla Dick for "Art in the Vineyard" auction.

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