Bodega Bay Heritage Gallery Monthly

News, Articles, and Opinions from the world of California's Heritage Art

Published by www.BodegaBayHeritageGallery.com **April 2007** Vol 1 Issue 3 Linda Sorensen & Daniel Rohlfing, proprietors.

"The hidden harmony is better than the obvious." Pablo Picasso

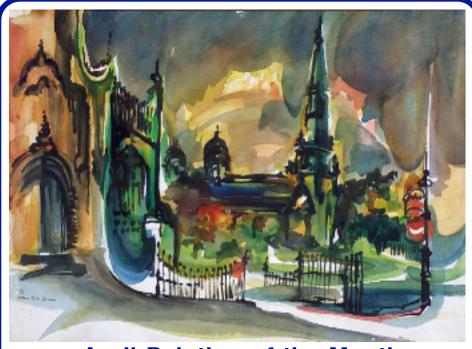
Thelma **Speed Houston** 1914 - 2000

Thelma Speed Houston will be center stage in May retrospective exhibition hosted by the Vista Art Gallery in Vista, California, about 35 miles north of San Diego.

The exhibtion is the brainchild of a television star, Ken Jenkins, who plays Dr. Kelso on "Scrubs." Jenkins began collecting the works of Thelma Speed Houston several His enthusiasm for years ago. Thelma's work soon lead him to Kene Lohmann, grand-nephew of Thelma, and together they chose Thelma's adopted hometown of Vista, California for this exhibition.

Thelma Speed Houston was a master watercolor artist for fiftyone years. Her work exudes a magical blend her talent, her robust style, and a hearty laugh. She was known for bold sweeping strokes and she is remembered by her students for laughing while she Thelma taught art at painted. Palomar College and other venues in North San Diego County.

Thelma's style is of "California Style" or "California Movement" watercolors



April Painting of the Month "Cathedral," Thelma Speed Houston, 1914 - 2000

Watercolor 21 1/2 x 29 1/2

Retrospective Exhibition: Vista Village Art Gallery Vista, California ... www.vistaartfoundation.org

popularized during the WPA period Sheets, Phil Dike, Emil Kosa and of the 1930's and made famous by Paul Sample. Disney artists.

defined by its bold strokes and rich and colors. The subject matter were most Watercolors Pacific Coast, and included industrial Dictionary" scenes, beaches and working harbors, McClelland and Jay T. Last. and vast open landscapes and cityscapes.

Art Institute,

Thelma loved travel, painting scenes The California Style of watercolor of varied places she visited, including painting emerged in the 1920's and many scenes of Northern California remained until the mid 1950's. This and of Maui. She was a member of bold style of representational art is the Laguna Beach Art Association is listed in "California 1850 1970. often scenes of everyday life on the Illustrated History and Biographical T. Gordon

Thelma was born in the Bronx, and was a graduate of the Pratt Institute The California Style was most of Fine and Applied Art. She worked defined by a group of young artists in in textiles, and was a designer and the 1930's, most from the Chouinard colorist for St. Andrews Textile including Millard Company in New York.

http://www.BBHGallery.com Log onto:

"If only we could pull out our brain and use only our eyes." Pablo Picasso * * *

Linda & Dan's Exhibition Excursion to S. California

Recently, Linda and Dan visited the southland and attended five notable His later work was influenced by exhibitions

First up was the "Painters of the Desert: the Arid West" at the Wilding Museum in Los Olivos, near Solvang north of Santa Barbara. The exhibit was small, but would have been the pride more prestigious big city museums. The works included dazzling early 20th century paintings of Maynard Dixon, Conrad Buff, Victor Forsythe, and Jimmv Swinnerton. These artists captured a beauty and spirit of the Southwest, long before air conditioners, huge cities and freeways. The exhibit has now ended, but we encourage you to think anew of the desert by seeing the works of painters who saw it and preserved it long ago.

Next up was the "Who Was Sam? The Art of Sam Hyde Harris 1889 -1977," exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History.

The exhibit focused on his extensive and successful commercial art and famous landscapes of Southern California artist, Sam Hyde Harris.

As a commercial artist, produced many labels and posters. His most recognizable work was done for the Sante Fe Railroad, with stylized art deco trains racing through western scenery, scenes well received by Easterners yearing

to head west.

Sam's landscape paintings exhibit his love of light and atmospheric effects. His scenes preserve the open and uncongested Southern California of his era.

desert artist James Swinnerton. or not to be (a Gallery)? During this period, he painted in the Palm Springs area, and his pallet changed to more earth tones, in part because the rich colors he had used before the war, crimson, orange, blue were prohibitively purple expensive during the war.

Sam was well liked and had some gallery. artist friends as including Hanson Puthuff, Payne, and Jean Mannheim. located his studio in Alhambra, with may more easily see and enjoy the some notable artist neighbors; Jack collection. Wilkinson Smith, Clyde Forsythe, Eli Harvey, and Frank Tenney Johnson. Norman Rockwell was a regular summertime visitor to this small Alhambra artist colony. Most enjoyable for Sam was teaching, on which he focused most of his energies later in his life.

The exhibit at the Pasadena History Museum runs through April 29th. (www.PasadenaHistory.org)

Linda and Dan also viewed the California Watercolor Exhibit at the Pasadena Art Museum, the Colin Sam Cooper Campbell exhibit at the Laguna Beach Art Museum, and the "Peaceful Awaking, Spring in California" exhibit at the Irvine Museum, featuring the works of many early California painters. They also visited many galleries in the Laguna Beach area.

"The profession of book writing makes horse racing seem like a solid and stable business."

John Steinbeck

To be (a Gallery)

That is the question ... now facing Linda and Dan.

They began as an "on-line" enterprise. Their efforts focused on the acquisition, research and internet presentation of their

Edgar But one of their goals is making He California Art accessible, so people Establishing a well lighted and well located gallery would go a long way in meeting that goal.

> Linda and Dan would love to hang their shingle in Bodega Bay, but retail space is extremely rare along the coast. They are willing to consider locales a bit further inland. vou have any inspired suggestions of prime gallery locations or any "lightening bolt" ideas, please contact them at ...

> > 707-875-9287

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"I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else."

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Pablo Picasso