

ARTS

Graziano's Exhibits Sculpture and Painting

Graziano's Ristorante at 70 Petaluma Boulevard North is exhibiting Italian marble sculptures by Howard Joel Schechter and plein air paintings by Mary Fassbinder.

Of his work, Schechter says, "I came to stone sculpture a bit mysteriously. After many years of writing and painting I felt called, seemingly with no previous warning, at the rather advanced age of 60, to sculpting in stone. (More recently I have come to see the continuous thread: how I carved soap and fashioned clay as a child, as well my life long enchantment with standing stones).

"With some guidance to begin, I am self taught in the art and craft of stone scul-

ture. I believe this has supported an original and raw style, somewhat unique in stone sculpture.

"What I do is called 'direct carving.' I do not use sketches or models. I begin by searching for the shape in the stone that wants to emerge and I amplify it. If nothing comes forward, I look for an inviting place to make the first entry with chisel or blade, and move with the stone from there. I work outside and get lost in shape and texture of stone for hours on end.

"All these pieces are carved in Italian marble. I love this stone in particular. It has great integrity. It is neither too hard nor too soft. It holds itself firm and is allowing. It is a medium that suits my nature and therefore al-

lows beauty to emerge."

Mary Fassbinder has been plein air painting on location for 15 years. She says, "This gives me a chance to spend a lot of time outdoors. We have such a great area to select subjects from, right here in Sonoma County. When I'm not painting, I'm busy at my frame shop, helping people choose just the right accents to add to their art work, to make it truly their own. Please feel free to stop by anytime at 900 B Western Avenue in Petaluma for a visit. Along with painting and framing, I enjoy teaching plein air painting. My goal is to turn people on to the beauty that surrounds us, and my paintings will allow you to take a piece of that beauty home with you."

FRESH PAINT IN TINY TOMALES

Although it has always been just off the grid, and its history seems to have favored saloons and churches — the future of this quaint little west Marin town is likely to see more fine dining and art galleries.

When nationally recognized oil painter Jeanette Le Grue and her husband Scott Taylor moved to the small town of Tomales in 2002, it was for the inspiration and great painting opportunities. Little did they know the funky, historic charm of the property's colorful past would bring out Taylor's creative side as well.

The front of the house was originally the town bakery in the 1860s and seemed to have great potential, but required a lot of TLC to bring it back to life. So, on the weekends, Taylor went to work — and with one project after another for five long years, he turned their little diamond in

the rough into a jewel of an art gallery!

According to Taylor, "It's kind of funny -- just south of town on Hwy 1, people have a natural tendency to see the sign to Petaluma and veer inland, back to Hwy 101. The same thing happens just north of town, too -- so a whole bunch of people completely miss the town. If you happen to stay on Hwy 1, however, and actually make it into town, you would think people have been missing it for a hundred years — and they have!"

But now, there is another reason to get off the beaten path and discover what everyone has been missing -- as their slogan says, "It's a fine little art gallery, in a funky little town!"

If you would like more information about Tomales or Tomales Fine Art Gallery, please contact Scott Taylor, at 707.878.2525 or Tomales-FineArt.com.



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Howard Joel Schechter



Mary Fassbinder



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