

FALL 2017/WINTER 2018
COMPLIMENTARY

MENDOCINO ARTS

ART AND CULTURE IN MENDOCINO COUNTY



PUBLISHED BY THE MENDOCINO ART CENTER

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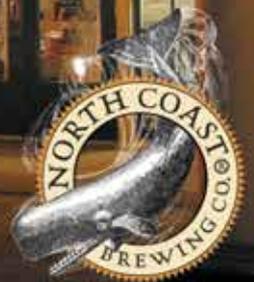


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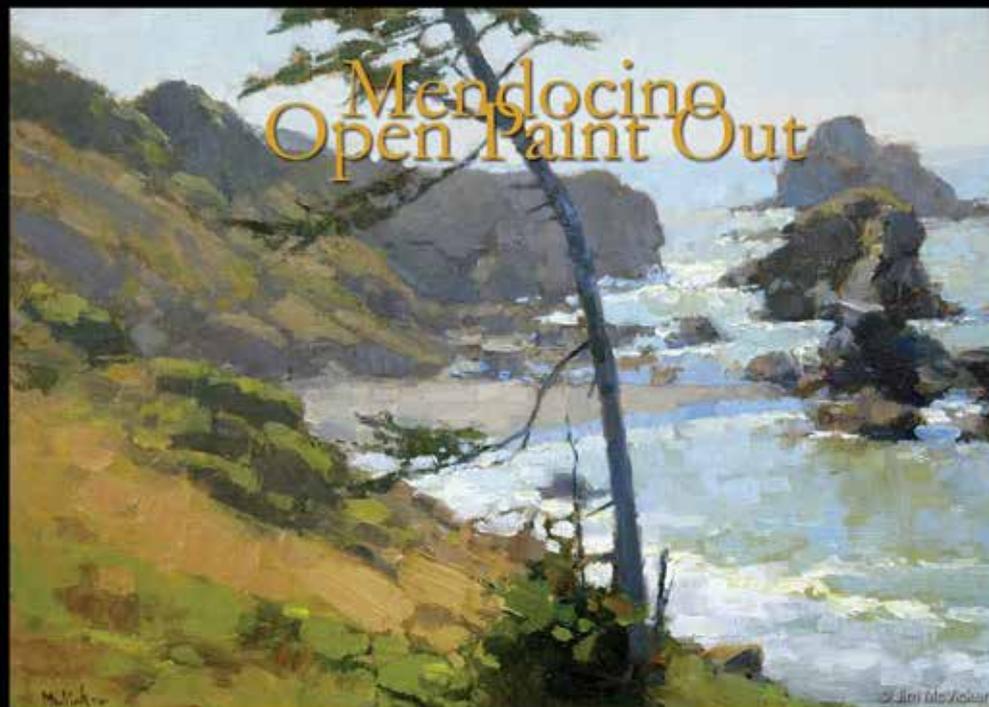
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Mendocino Arts promotes the arts by offering space to artists, writers, craftspeople and performers and by providing information on arts and entertainment in Mendocino County. Submissions of unsolicited non-fiction articles, photographs or artwork for consideration in *Mendocino Arts* must include a SASE or we cannot be responsible for their return. We welcome announcements of upcoming events to be included as space permits.

Support the Arts... Become a Mendocino Art Center Member...



Credits: Brigit O'Connor; Mini Carril; Liu Ming; Pavlos; Majakic; Jewelry by Thomas Herman

Embrace your Creativity...



...and join the Mendocino Art Center's vibrant arts community. Enjoy classes presented by renowned instructors, open studios, concerts, art fairs, cultural programs, monthly art exhibitions, special gallery receptions, and much more.

Member Benefits

- Discounts on class tuition
- Waiver of class registration fee
- Discounts at participating local businesses
- Discounts on CALSTAR and REACH
- Special rates from SUBURBAN PROPANE
- Sales opportunities in the gallery shop
- Invitations to participate in Members' Juried Exhibitions
- Member's exhibition opportunities
- Mendocino Arts magazine and events information

Sustaining, Patron, and Zacha Legacy Society

ZLS members receive special invitations and recognition in Mendocino Arts magazine.

Annual Zacha Legacy Society members names are placed in the Zacha Legacy Society gallery window.

Permanent Zacha Legacy Society members are listed in the gallery in perpetuity.

Business Membership Benefits

- Receive logo and link recognition on the MAC website links page
- MAC Website Sponsors receive link recognition on the Art Center home page.

Yes... I want to keep the Mendocino Art Center vibrant and strong! New Member Renewal

- Individual.....\$65
- Household (2 member max).....\$100
- Student (12+).....\$30
- Senior (70+).....\$30
- Sustaining.....\$250
- Patron.....\$500
- Business/Partner.....\$250
- Business/Website Sponsor.....\$500

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www.mendocinoartcenter.org/membership.html

Mendocino Art Center

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Mendocino Art Center



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FALL/WINTER DISTRIBUTION – 17,000

Spring/Summer 2018 Deadline – January 15, 2018

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Mendocino Art Center is an educational institution that fosters engagement, exploration, and excellence in the arts. We create, teach, exhibit, and preserve art; and cultivate a vibrant regional arts environment to ensure access to all people, enrich each visitor's experience, and preserve the community's artistic heritage.

Founded by Bill Zacha in 1959 as a nonprofit organization to support, foster, advance, and promote artistic awareness and participation.

COVER IMAGE: Virginia Sharkey, Monday, acrylic on linen over panel, 50" x 52".

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT:

I love the Mendocino Art Center! Every week brings new challenges and inspirations. I have the opportunity to interact with people from instructors and exhibiting artists to visiting artists and students. Spending time on campus, one can see why the MAC has been the magnet for the arts here on the coast – creative energy is everywhere.

We have two new studio coordinators who came onboard over the summer. Jonathan Palmer is our new Fine Art Coordinator. Jonathan has been an instructor at both Mendocino College and San Francisco Art Institute, and we look forward to him drawing on this experience to energize our fine art class offerings. Linda Cloonan is our new Fiber Arts Coordinator. Linda came to the Mendocino Art Center in 2016 as an Artist in Residence and is now sharing her expertise from the textile world with us. Welcome Jonathan and Linda! Our previous coordinators, Arlene Reiss and Pavlos Mayakis, will continue to offer classes at the MAC (see pages 24–25 for our fall schedule). Thank you, Arlene and Pavlos, for all that you have done to make your respective programs a success.

Getting to know the Artists in Residence has been an added pleasure. We have new AIRs arriving on campus October 1, and staying through mid-May. I can't wait to get to know them and their work. You can, too, by joining us as they show and talk about their artwork at a special presentation, October 6, at 5:00 p.m. Also, look for AIR booths at our 58th Annual Thanksgiving Arts & Crafts Fair, November 24–25.

We will soon be welcoming new directors to our board, and we envision adding more community members to take on the many necessary tasks in continuing our progress toward a sustainable future. You can help us, too, by volunteering, becoming a member, or making a donation. We thank you for your continuing support!

Come say "hello" at one of our free monthly Second Saturday Gallery Receptions. Tell me you also "Love the Mendocino Art Center," and I'll buy you a glass of wine.

– Debra Lennox, Board President



Edwards Place, Orr Springs Road, *photo, 7" x 9"*.

BILL BRAZILL

AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG ARTISTS

By Peggy Templer

Photographer **Bill Brazill** spent 33 years as the art instructor at Mendocino High School. During that time, he instilled a passion for art in hundreds of young students and created opportunities for artistic exploration for them, often out of nothing (at one time he lacked even a classroom). A gracious and self-effacing man, Bill repeatedly exclaims that the success he enjoyed with his appreciative young art students was due in large part to the unwavering support and encouragement of members of the local community, the Mendocino Art Center, and service clubs such as Rotary. “Whatever we needed, we got,” Bill says.

Bill has a Mendocino Coast heritage that goes back many generations. He grew up in Fort Bragg and graduated from Fort Bragg High School. Bill readily admits to having no interest in art until after high school, although he always liked working with his hands. He enrolled at Humboldt State to major in wildlife sciences, but immediately gravitated to the art department because “that’s where everything was happening.” In the summer of 1964, he took a photography class at the Mendocino Art Center which left him “totally enamored with the whole field of photography.” At Humboldt he was able to study photography with an inspirational instructor, Tom Knight.



Clockwise: Westport Rocks, photo, 10" x 8"; Erin Fiddling, photo, 8" x 10"; Kelly House Mendocino, photo, 8" x 10".

Bill received his BA degree and then a Master's in Photography from Humboldt.

By 1974, Bill was digging ditches and painting houses while waiting for a teaching job to come along. At the end of that summer, the position of art instructor at Mendocino High School opened up, but Bill felt his chances of getting it were slim. He appealed to MAC's founder and director Bill Zacha for a letter of recommendation. In typical Zacha fashion, a deal was offered: Bill would get the letter on condition that he would agree to facilitate a relationship between MHS and MAC. "Build a bridge," Zacha commanded. Bill was hired for the teaching position.

One of the first bridges Bill built was to use the MAC ceramics studio in the mornings, before adult workshops, to teach ceramics to MHS students. In exchange, MAC was able to use MHS classrooms in the summer for workshops.

The years were filled with exciting opportunities for his students – drawing, painting, ceramics, jewelry casting and fabrication, stained glass, calligraphy, photography, etc. – all done with incredibly strong local support. Local artists, including MAC's artists in residence, came to MHS to do art demonstrations. Groups of students would

accompany Bill on tours of artists' studios and galleries, and the community and MAC were always generous in providing exhibition space for Bill's students' work.

In 1983–84, Bill was granted a sabbatical to study drawing and painting. He and his young family drove across the country in a converted Comptche school bus, then flew to Italy, where Bill studied at the Fortman Studio in Florence. "After that I was solidly grounded in the basics," he says.

His art students back at MHS "really responded to my new knowledge." He would go on to inspire a number of young students to pursue art as a career, some quite successfully (he is reluctant to name names, however, for fear he will overlook one!). At around this same time, Ted Tolnman volunteered to convert an old AV Room and a faculty bathroom into a darkroom for MHS. The darkroom was then equipped by generous contributions from Rotary, local gifts, and grants. From then on, his photography classes were always full, and photographs coming out of that classroom were highly anticipated at the annual countywide Young Artists Exhibit at MAC, and at the Mendocino County Fair in Boonville.



Study in Form, Gordon's Place, photo, 7" x 8".

Bill says, "If the Mendocino Art Center hadn't been there, I can't imagine that any of my programs would have been nearly as successful, or happened at all. It has been such a special place, and always so incredibly supportive."

Two memorable photography projects done by his high school students under his direction stand out for Bill. The first was a two-year project to publish a book, *Mendocino Artists: An Endangered Species*, done in 1998 to 2000. MHS students went to the homes and studios of a number of well-known local artists, most living in close proximity to MHS and MAC, and did a single black and white portrait. Color photographs of one work of art from each artist were also taken. The beautiful book that resulted is now of historical importance, as many of those artists have since passed on. The book is still available at Gallery Bookshop in Mendocino. The second project involved the work of early coastal photographer Perley Maxwell. Since his death in the 1930s, over 250 never-before-printed negatives of Maxwell's had been in storage and the students were given access to them. In the first year of this project, high school students made positive images of 150 plates. In the second year, Bill's Advanced



Bill Brazill with his 1930s 8x10 Deardorff view camera. Larry Wagner photo.

Photography class selected 20 of those images and, using digital cameras, duplicated the exact shot (even attempting to be sure the weather matched the original), showing that specific location 100 years later. This exhibit can still be seen at the Kelley House Museum.

Bill says of these two projects, "These were fun and effective ways of connecting the kids with the community."

Bill is an eclectic artist who loves the process of wheel thrown ceramics and is captivated by the process of blacksmithing. But his real passion has always been photography. He prefers a traditional approach to photography, what he calls, "making intentional images." Instead of taking hundreds of photos, he is interested in taking "just that one photo." He uses a 1930s 8x10 Deardorff view camera, a wooden box camera on a tripod which is essentially unchanged since its original patent in the 1850s.

Currently Bill is focusing on "a visual exploration of the remnants of pioneer life in Mendocino County. As a descendant of early Mendocino County settlers, searching for the areas that represent the original wilderness, and the settlers' efforts to tame it, have always been strong interests of mine. I now use a vintage view camera not unlike the ones used by the first photographers of Mendocino County. Working in black and white allows me to do all the processing and tends to simplify the images visually while at the same time heightening the historical connections."

In keeping with that, some of the major influences on Bill's work are the early photographers, including the great 19th century landscape photographer Carleton Watkins, Ukiah photographer Robert Taylor, and Edward Weston. His work

is also influenced by his early mentor, Tom Knight.

Bill says, "I feel incredibly fortunate to have a life filled with creating art without ever having been 'under the gun' to produce art."

Bill's work can be seen occasionally at the Mendocino Art Center and at Partners Gallery in Fort Bragg.

mendocino art center ON EXHIBIT

SEPTEMBER *through* MARCH · Open Daily

September

MAIN GALLERY (September 1-17)

Rude Awakening

A Rude Family Art Show

NICHOLS GALLERY (September 1-17)

Wendell Rickon

A Bedroom of Furniture and Accessories



REUBEN AND
THOMAS RUDE



SUSAN ELWART HALL,
2016 BEST IN SHOW

GALLERY TEN

(September 1-30)

Mendocino Open Paint Out Featured Artists

ALL GALLERIES (September 18-24)

Mendocino Open Paint Out

October

MAIN GALLERY

Virginia Sharkey

GALLERY TEN

Jan Ramsey



JAN RAMSEY

NICHOLS GALLERY

Instructor Showcase



LISA THORPE

November

MAIN GALLERY

Gail Factor

GALLERY TEN

Lisa Thorpe

NICHOLS GALLERY

Susan Else

December

MAIN GALLERY

Rebecca Johnson

GALLERY TEN

Holiday Jewelry Shop

NICHOLS GALLERY

John Hewitt



JOHN HEWITT

January

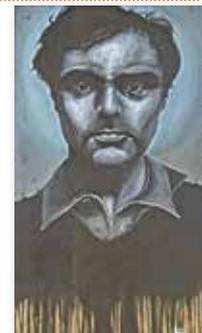
ALL GALLERIES

Members' Juried Exhibit

February

MAIN GALLERY

Howard Wheatley Allen & Rosemary Allen



ANNA ELLIOTT, 2016 BEST IN SHOW

GALLERY TEN

Willow Solow

March



MOLLY PEREZ

GALLERY TEN

Mendocino Printmakers

NICHOLS GALLERY

Rick Keller

MAIN GALLERY

Marine Wildlife Exhibit

Second Saturday
Artists' Receptions

Each month
at
5:00pm

Schedule subject to change.



mendocino art center

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