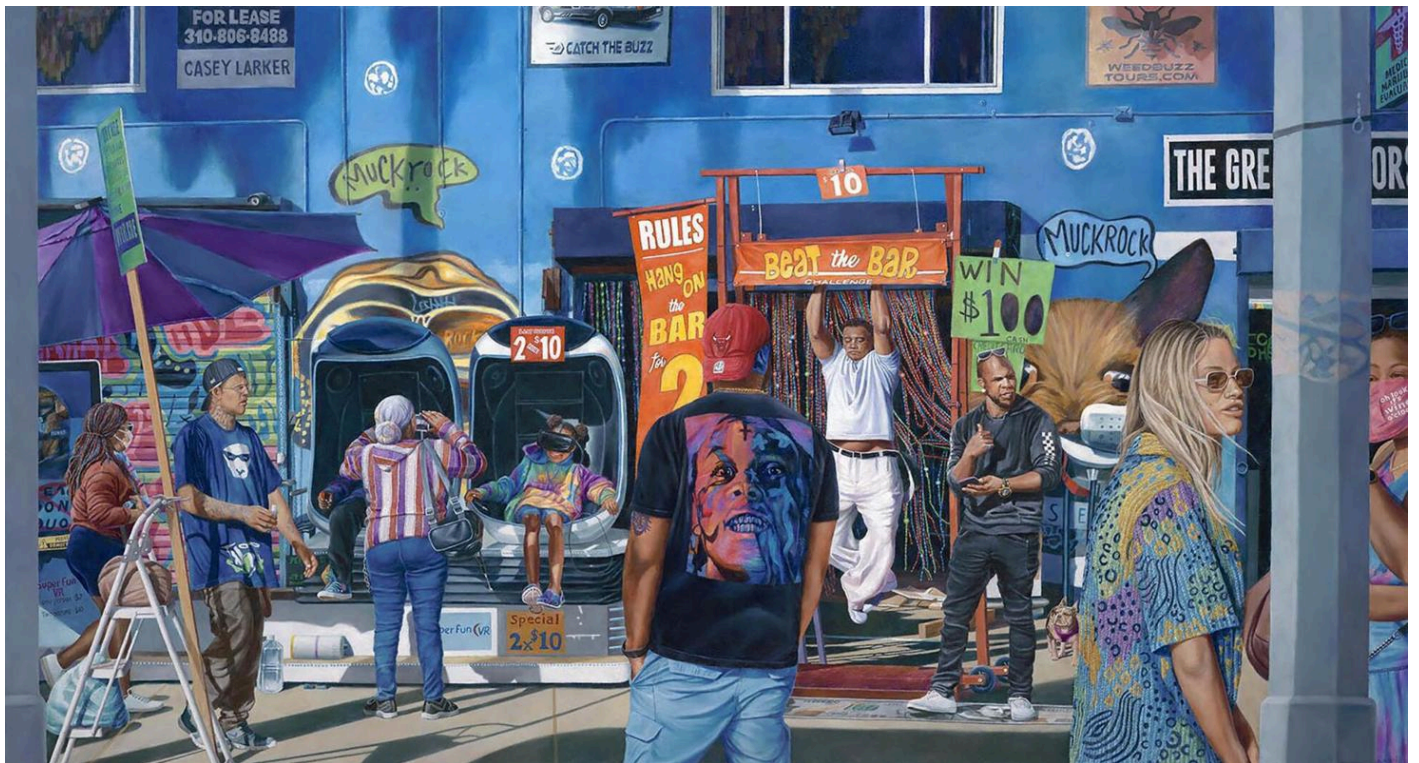


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# Women Painters West Brings Exhibit to George Izay Park

By David Laurell  
May 10, 2025



Photos by David Laurell / Nancy Rossi's "Beat the Bar" is one of the featured paintings in the "Shades of Color" exhibit.

This past week, Women Painters West took over the walls of the Betsy Lueke Creative Arts Center located in Burbank's George Izay Park to showcase their members' works in "Shades of Color," a juried exhibit that will run through May 22.

Over the millennia there has been no shortage of representations of women in art made by men. While females have, by far, been the preferred inspiration of artistic creation, perhaps since the earliest of prehistoric cave paintings, they themselves, for far too long, garnered little or no attention as artists.

While mentions of the artistic expression of women can be traced back to ancient references in the writings of Homer and Virgil, female prominence in art advanced at glacial speed over the centuries.

In the 16th century, an Italian woman by the name of Lavinia Fontana became a significant and prolific artist. Her prominence opened the door for women to make advancements in the art world.



Creative Arts Center staff members Jessica Real and Lauren Griffin flank Virginia Causton-Keene who serves as the gallery's director.

The prestigious Salon de Paris first exhibited the work of women artists in 1791, which saw the establishment of art schools specifically for women.

The 20th century saw women come into their own as artists and in 1921, the Woman's Art Club of Southern California was established in Laguna

Beach. Founded as a nonprofit membership corporation with educational, benevolent, fraternal and charitable objectives, the organization became officially known as Women Painters West in 1983.

Today, with a membership of almost 200 women, Women Painters West promotes its artists who work in all mediums and whose works are exhibited in galleries, museums, and universities throughout the United States and abroad.



President Jeni Bate and Diane Karpel, who serves as the current exhibition's chairwoman, welcomed supporters to last week's opening.



“Baby Brother,” by Janice White Burton earned honorable mention honors during last week’s reception.

The current exhibit, chaired by Diane Karpel, kicked off with a reception in which supporters of the women artists and local art lovers were welcomed by Women Painters West President Jeni Bate, Virginia Causton-Keene, who serves as the gallery’s director, and staff members Jessica Real and Lauren Griffin.

The reception saw first-place honors go to Bonny Butler for her pastel creation, “Spring Smile,” and second place bestowed upon Peggy Dunn’s watercolor “Alaska” which was inspired by a trip she took to

## “The Last Frontier.”



Artist Karin Alexander with her daughter Valerie Garrett and grandchildren, was one of the numerous Women Painters West members who are exhibiting their work.

“Mushrooms and a Knife,” an oil painting by Ellen Levine, took third place, while Janice White Burton’s acrylic creation, “Baby Brother,” was awarded an honorable mention.

The mission of Women Painters West is to provide women artists with fellowship in an artistic community with an emphasis on elevating creative standards and procuring exhibition venues for their work.

The diversity of work included in “Shades of Color” takes gallery-goers on a colorful path from the detailed street scape of Nancy Rossi’s “Beat the Bar” created with the mixed media of oil and pastel, to the whimsical use of acrylics in Karin Alexander’s gaze into a tranquil water world titled “A Perfectly Fine Day.”



A second place certificate was awarded to artist Peggy Dunn for her watercolor “Alaska.”

A native San Franciscan, Alexander graduated cum laude from UCLA. As a teacher for over 30 years, she provided fine arts instruction for all grade levels including special needs students and those in gifted programs. Widely regarded as an educational course pioneer who has

developed more than 300 practical and innovative educational courses, Alexander is the founder and CEO of Courses4Teachers Inc., which provides educational courses to teachers of all levels. She is also a writer whose inspirational book, “Fall In Love With Your Job, Fall In Love With Yourself: Tools For Joy And Fulfillment,” is available on Amazon.com.

With the “Shades of Color” show on exhibit for the next two weeks, gallery staff members are already working on next month’s Burbank Art Association Fall Show 2025.



Singer/songwriter Stacy Wilde and actress, fitness trainer and anti-aging consultant Barbara Wade were among those out in support of the women who paint.

This year's fall show will see the Thousand Oaks Art Association present a members' exhibit that will showcase paintings, sculptures and unique mixed-media pieces. The show will commence on June 6 and run through June 26 with an artists' reception on June 14 at 2 p.m.

The Betsy Lueke Creative Arts Center is located at 1100 West Clark Ave. For information on upcoming exhibits, classes and gallery hours, call (818) 238-5397.

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# SHADES OF COLOR



Photos by David Laurell / Burbank Leader

The Women Painters West exhibit "Shades of Color" will run through May 22 at the Betsy Lueke Creative Arts Center.