

RUTH HYNDS

Watercolors About Us

OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 FROM 5 TO 7 P.M.
CLOSING CELEBRATION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 5 TO 7 P.M

Gualala Arts hosts a Ruth Hynds exhibit/fundraiser titled "Watercolors About Us" opening Saturday, February 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. through the Closing Celebration Saturday, February 27, 5 to 7 p.m.

A silent auction runs throughout the exhibition dates. The opening and closing gatherings will have refreshments and appetizers. Thanks to these gracious gifts from Bebe McCoy and Ruth Hynds 100% of the proceeds will benefit Gualala Arts.

Old timers will remember all these wonderful moments and many of the people featured in the paintings. Newcomers will appreciate the sense of community they represent. If you would like to own part of this collective memory, please participate in the silent auction.

About Ruth Hynds: A 500 Mile Commute

In 1987 when Carlton Hand and I moved to Gualala, he stayed at our Woodside house and built a garage/office/shop. I began to make my 11 hour, 500 mile commute to continue my watercolor business in Newport Beach. I'd load up my van with gear, leave at 3 a.m., pass San Francisco by 6, do the 5 hour I-5 trek, arriving in Newport wired up with coffee. For a week I'd do meetings, exhibits, give talks or teach workshops. Perhaps do the Newport to Ensenada Race, then return to Gualala.



Newport didn't stay in Newport, however. A Corona del Mar newspaper owner called my Gualala Studio

and asked to meet for coffee. He interviewed me for an article, laughing that he'd recognized some of my notecards in town and had said out loud, "Oh there's our artist." He was corrected: "No, she's our artist." Flattered at being fought over, I was also stunned at the collapse of the distance between where I lived (private) and my public Newport image.

Deciding To Paint The Backbone Of The Community

Returning home, I found workmen everywhere, smoothing newly poured cement, erecting retaining walls; electricians, plumbers, a small John Deere tractor offloading lumber. One morning I took a break from painting, to notice shafts of light through the redwoods beaming down on Kent Littleton and his crew. I starting shooting with my camera and soon had a pile of photos, even one of Carlton and Guy Guynes planning the garage. New to Gualala, I photoed the Lionesses marching in the 4th of July parade in Pt. Arena. It wasn't until I caught Steve McLaughlin and Joe de Witt with the guide dog Crimson on White Cane Day that I realized I'd been collecting material for the series, "The Backbone of the Community." The workers were the backbone. I began to paint the twenty six originals that Richard McCoy coveted and purchased. His words were, "Now I have all my friends."

He loaned the series for exhibit in Washington, D.C. in the Cannon House of Representatives Rotunda Gallery and in the Sonoma County Art Museum before installing them in the Wine Room of Anchor Bay Store. He was a true patron of the arts to me, while Carlton always met with him as a friend for his birthday.

When the Series showed at Stary Sheets Gallery (the present Elaine Jacob Center), David Sheets said it drew "more local people than had ever been in the gallery." I remember seeing cars parked out of sight in both directions along Highway One.

