

Seventh Annual Redwood Coast
Whale & Jazz Festival

Japanese Poetry & Art

Exhibit April 1 - April 29

Gualala Arts Center: Coleman Auditorium



In celebration of April as Poetry Month, there will be an exhibit of works combining poetry and art. For this year, Japanese art and poetry will be the focus, and the works will be one of the highlights of the Poetry & Jazz event on April 11, as one part of the Whale and Jazz Festival with the theme of International Flavor.

The Japanese have a long history of combining their artwork with the written word. Because they employ brushes and ink for both methods of expression, it seems a natural

combination. Very often screens were painted and dedicated to certain poems or the events about which the poem was written. The poem then became part of the painting in fact and spirit.

Later the shortness of the haiku made it even easier to add to a simple drawing. Often these were like sketches or even cartoon renditions of a few well-placed strokes. Though both the poem and the drawing seem simple, great worth and consideration was given to the combination of poem and graphic and their relationship on the page.

Though many of us no longer write with a brush or create our art with one, the tradition remains, and today there is a growing interest in Japanese haiga - a combination of haiku and any kind of graphic. With the advent of the computer, now almost anyone can now take a photo, and add a haiku to it. However, a small but dedicated group of artists are exploring different kinds of graphics and different ways of integrating the words and visuals. A web search of haiga may surprise you with the extent of haiga online.

In the four previous years of Gualala Arts poetry month art shows, several local artists, already adept with the brushes, have shown authentic haiga. Still there is lots of room for exploration and innovation and it is hoped that new ideas will inspire new works of art with a Japanese flair.

Whales with Siegfried Matull

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Gualala Arts Center

Leaving nothing to the whims of nature, the Seventh Annual Whale and Jazz Festival guarantees spectacular whale sightings even if they will occur in Gualala Arts Center's Coleman Auditorium and not in the nearby Pacific Ocean. The festival kicks off with a Thursday night photo-lecture by international award-winning nature photographer Siegfried Matull, who also presented a collection of photographs of Northern California in 2007.

This time Siegfried will select the best photos from his annual trips to Hawaii and two trips to Alaska for unusual and exciting pictures of Humpback and Beluga whales, porpoises and dolphins. He will also include photos from his January 2009 trip to Antarctica.

Siegfried is constantly looking for the unusual, the whimsical, and/or the revealing image. To find an acceptable picture he may take 3,000 digital pictures in two or three hours and then reject all but a hundred before making a final selection of one to five worthwhile images.

He has been a frequent lecturer at photography conferences and has judged many national and international photo salons including the prestigious Austrian Supercircuit in Linz, Austria. He has received 102 gold medals and has achieved first place awards in the Photographic Society of America's annual contests in both Nature and Photojournalism categories.

At this presentation you will see the world's largest mammals in creative, new settings. It is an exciting experience for the entire family. There is no advanced sale for tickets, but a \$5 admission will be accepted at the door.

