

Happy New (Phew!) Year...

We are starting off 2021 with a general “call to artist” exhibit at the Gualala Arts Center - “Shelter from the Storm” - art created in these turbulent times.

I could not think of a better exhibit to process what we are all experiencing at the moment and have gone through this past year. I am a firm believer that art is a safe way to deal with some very heavy topics in society. Art has a way to articulate our feelings and emotions that transcends words, conversations, and conscious thoughts.

When thinking about writing my ED letter this month I ran across this excerpt from [reference.com](http://reference.com)

Art influences society by changing opinions, instilling values and translating experiences across space and time. Research has shown art affects the fundamental sense of self. Painting, sculpture, music, literature and the other arts are often considered to be the repository of a society's collective memory. Art preserves what fact-based historical records cannot: how it felt to exist in a particular place at a particular time.

I hope you take the time to share with our community what you have “felt” during the past year. If you have not created something to share, I hope you will take this “call to action” and create something, anything, that comes to you and articulate it and manifest it into this realm as something physical to share.

It is one thing to process feelings by creating art, but, by sharing it with your community as well, it takes on a whole new meaning and impact for us all.

I cannot thank each of you enough for believing in the arts, helping us get through 2020 and giving us hope for 2021.

Together we have proven that we can get through this with creativity, generosity, kindness, gratitude and of course my favorite, LOVE.

I look forward to rising to the occasion, with all of you, and going into this New Year with creative optimism lifting our spirits to whatever the next day brings us.