

ARTS

A Love of the Landscape at Riverfront by Sharon Feissel

Within this year's annual juried tribute to area photographers at Riverfront, there is a sizable concentration of truly beautiful landscapes. Many of them juxtapose land and water, with each element indispensable to the beauty of the other. Another strong component is made up of those ethereal dawn and twilight images that are always intensely evocative, often using long exposures to let the soft light accumulate into a luminous sheen on rock and water while color spills across the sky.

Several landscape images use the increasingly popular high dynamic range (HDR) technique. Given certain circumstances, HDR has even become a standard

operating procedure for many photographers. The technique involves taking multiple shots, usually from three to five, at different exposures so that each area of the scene is more properly exposed, since even today's fine cameras are not capable of recording the full range of light and color in one shot. Color in its full range and contrast are restored by combining the multiple shots into a single image. The combined image yields a richer, more visually-true representation of the scene itself. There are also artistic uses of the technique to draw out and emphasize chosen aspects of a scene. Both approaches are present in the current exhibition.

Also increasingly popular is the use of reflective surfaces such as metal or

acrylic for the print surface. These surfaces require that a coating be applied that will absorb the inks, just as with papers and canvases. However, with both metals and acrylics, light traveling through to those shinier surfaces does, in part, reflect back, giving the image increased brilliance and glow from within.

But let us not fail to mention that two-thirds of the images in this annual show are not landscapes. The breadth of subjects and approaches to those subjects is as stimulating as their variety. Art Walk on April 13, from 5 to 8 PM, would be a great time to come to see this annual exhibition.

Also on Art Walk Saturday and the following Sunday, Riverfront is hosting a fundraiser for the Montessori Pre-School with the children's work on view for the two days.

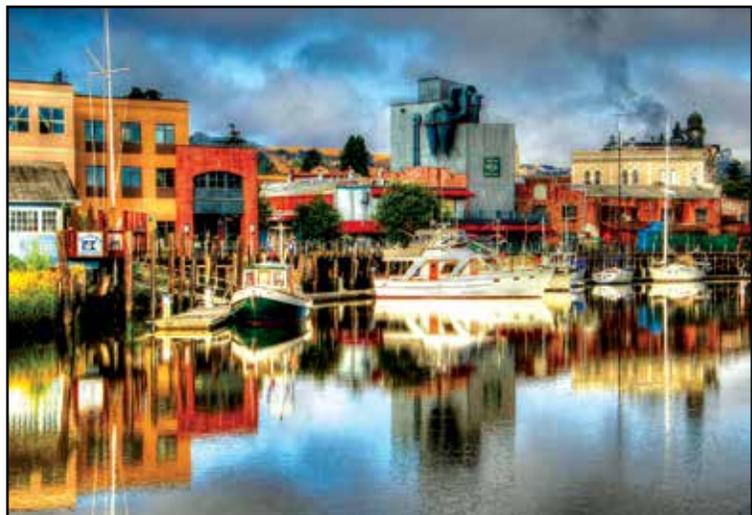
By the closing of the juried photography show, it will be time for the painters and artists to begin working on their entries for the "Showin' On The River!" Fine Art Show coming in the summer. The deadline for entries is June 1. Guidelines

are on the gallery's website under Call for Entries.

Riverfront Art Gallery is at 132 Petaluma Blvd. North in downtown Petaluma. Regular hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 11 AM-6:00 PM; Friday and Saturday, 11 AM to 8 PM. For more information call 707.775.4278 or visit riverfrontartgallery.com.



"Bella Vista" by Ben Stein (HDR)



"Petaluma Turning Basin" by Clyde Thomas (HDR)

Carol Peek



Fancy White © Carol Peek

Oil Paintings & Prints

Visit "Studio G"
Carol's print gallery

226 Petaluma Blvd N.
Inside "Worthy of Love"

www.carolpeek.com
707-776-7345

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"A Slice of Light" by Ruth Smilen