

RSF Art Guild Members Open Studios for Holiday Tours

Looking for something fun and free to do during the holiday season? Need to please a houseful of guests of all ages? Don't want to be in traffic or drive all day to do it? You are in luck! In the next few weeks three local artists open their studios and gardens for their annual holiday art shows. The Thanksgiving weekend of November 28th, 29th and 30th, you can visit Cherrie La Porte Cohen and Garry Cohen. As always this free event is open to the public and highlights their beautiful and unusual artwork in a spectacular garden setting.

In the recent Focus on Glass show at the Escondido Municipal Gallery at 262 Grand, both Cherrie and Garry received awards for their innovative work. They will be showcasing their sun sparkling glass art, as well as doing glass blowing demonstrations all weekend at their studio located in the charming Escondido enclave of artists near Lake Hodges. This talented couple have created "Glass Ranch" at their residence complete with a hot shop for blowing glass, a fused glass studio, a sculpture garden, mosaic ponds and a glass gallery. Their contemporary glass gallery is set amongst their unique sculpture garden where you can view their latest creations of Blown Glass, Fused Glass Sculpture, Glass Jewelry, Bronze Sculpture and Garden Art available for purchase.

The landscape, with a view of Lake Hodges, is designed with many spaces and is an art showcase with paths that lead you to interesting large glass panels, hanging dichroic glass mobiles and a mosaic pond in the shape of a snake giving visitors a chance to become inspired with ideas for their own environment. Glass Ranch is a blend of eclectic artistic vision of glass, metal and nature worth visiting. It's a crowd pleaser!

The following weekend of December 6th and 7th you can enjoy the free tour of Cathy Carey's studio and garden. New for this show Cathy has a selection of her travel sketchbook watercolors, including Lake Hodges, specially priced for this event. Her trademark colorful style also includes oil paintings of local scenes, Tuscany, the Southwest and the tropics, large floral watercolors as well as exquisite Murano bead jewelry. Cathy's paintings are in many local collections and have been used internationally as licensed images on giftware. Cathy sells direct from her studio at special prices only twice a year and the inventory goes quick!

In addition to the art on display you'll enjoy your behind the scenes entrance to her stunning private gardens, which were featured in the October 2007 issue of San Diego Home and Garden magazine. The one acre garden overlooking Lake Hodges is actually a variety of garden settings. You'll see tropical palms and bright flowers with a dramatic hillside waterfall, blue glass mulched cactus and succulent gardens dotting the hillsides. On the top of the hill enjoy the views from the Mediterranean gardens surrounding Cathy Carey's glasshouse studio, where she teaches classes. Giant Eucalyptus trees stand guard over winding paths with views as far inland as Ramona and the San Bernadino mountains. Walk down gravel paths lined with scented flowers and exotic fruit trees.

One of the most interesting pieces of artwork available at the tour is a limited number of handmade journals Cathy made in part from organic materials in her garden. Cathy made the paper covers by combining recycled household paper and plants like Rosemary, Geraniums, Lavender and Eucalyptus leaves. The result is a lightly fragranced journal with over fifteen of her photo collages along with blank pages to be written on, painted, collaged and personalized. To learn how to make your own handmade paper, Cathy is offering a one day workshop January 17th that includes all the materials. Visit her website for more details and other classes she is offering in 2009.

In a nutshell:

What: Artist Open Studio and Garden Tour in the Lake Hodges area

When & Where: 1. **Cherrie La Porte Cohen and Garry Cohen - November 28, 29, 30th, 10AM - 4PM**

20307 Beech Lane Escondido, CA 92029

Take I-15 or Del Dios Hwy to Via Rancho Pky, turn on Lake Dr towards Lake Hodges, turn right on BEECH LANE.

Studio is at the top of Beech Lane. Look for signs.

(760) 745-7020, cherrielaporte@cox.net, www.garrycohenstudio.com, www.cherrielaporte.com

2. **Cathy Carey - December 6th and 7th, 10AM - 4PM**

2048 Ridgecrest Place, Escondido, CA 92029

Take I-15 or Del Dios Hwy to Via Rancho Pky turn only way on Eucalyptus, left on Hamilton, left on Ridgecrest Pl. go to end to 2048.

760-489-9109, cathy@artstudiosandiego.com, www.artstudiosandiego.com

Cost: FREE! Bring your friends!

Cathy Carey

cathy@artstudiosandiego.com

Please note my new email address! The old address (element@abac.com) will no longer work after 12/31/08.