



# ATHERTON ARTS FOUNDATION

FALL / WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Message Board

- Sculptor **Ruth Waters\*** offers a solo exhibition entitled *Seeking Harmony and Balance* in the Rotunda Gallery (San Mateo County Government Center, 555 County Center, Redwood City) from July 6 through December 31, 2018.
- **Pacific Art League** at 668 Ramona Street in Palo Alto offers Africa, a Fine Art Photography Exhibition, from September through end of October 2018.
- Pearl jewelry maker, **Francine Fiesel** will feature her works at three autumn festivals: Santa Clara Art & Wine (September 15-16); Menlo Park Sidewalk Fine Arts (September 28-30); and San Carlos Art & Wine (October 6-7).
- Sculptor **Ted Ullman\*** was the featured artist showing sixteen wood sculptures at the Cambria Center for the Arts (Cambria, CA) in July.
- Painter **May Shei\*** was awarded permanent member status at the October 2017 *Salon D'Automne* for her Chinese Brush Painting. Her main exhibition in 2018 will be in New Taipei City, Hakka Park Yi-Jing-Fang, Taiwan.
- Printmaker **Cosette Dudley\*** will be showing her collages with the "Women's Caucus for Art" at Gallery 9, Main Street Los Altos, August 28 – September 30, 2018. The show is entitled *Fruition: Harvesting Our Imagination*.
- **Ginger Slonaker**, painter of whimsical portraits exhibited at **Avenue 25 Gallery** in San Mateo, will also show at **Little House** in Menlo Park and as part of "Art for Aids" at **City View – Metreon** in San Francisco on September 21, 2018.
- Sculptor **Guy Cohen\*** is showing four sculptures in San Francisco at **Monique Arnon Gallery** ([www.moniquearnonantiques.com](http://www.moniquearnonantiques.com)).
- AAF Exhibitors **Michael Kesselman, Inna Cherneykina, Barbara Berk, and Ginger Slonaker** are currently on display at **Peninsula Museum of Art**, 1777 California Dr., Burlingame CA 94010.
- Painter **Inna Cherneykina**, who is represented at **Lee Youngman Gallery**, Calistoga and **Portola Art Gallery**, Menlo Park was featured in *Southwest Art Magazine* in Spring 2018.
- **Barbara Berk** who weaves metal sculptures, has a solo exhibit at the **Riverside Art Museum** in Riverside, CA.
- Interested in participating in upcoming AAF Art Classes? Visit our website: [athertonarts.org](http://athertonarts.org) for information.
- AAF welcomes volunteers for assisting at exhibitions, on our Board of Directors and with AAF projects. Contact [arts@athertonarts.org](mailto:arts@athertonarts.org) for information.

\* Atherton Arts Foundation member.

## Diversity in Art

Nothing unusual in arriving here from China, Vietnam, Russia, Iran, or Eastern Europe. Others have made their way to Northern California from across the U.S.A.

We all absorb influences from other places and other peoples. However, artists take the extra step to explore these cultural differences through their unique artistic vision, style and subject matter. They also choose diverse media and styles even within their chosen type of artwork. For our September Atherton Arts Foundation (AAF) Autumn Exhibition, we reached out to local artists from diverse backgrounds that are pursuing their artistic passions. We looked for artists with award-winning creativity, a substantial body of work and a strong presence in local galleries.

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For example sculptor **Michael Kesselman** ([michaelkesselman.com](http://michaelkesselman.com)), envisions cast off wooden hat forms, piano keys, metal appliances or even old office furniture as elements of his creations. Reassembled, these treasures take on distinctly witty new forms that invite human touch and place form before function. "If people smile when they see it," says Michael, "then my work is successful. It's as simple as that." A former playwright and author, Michael revels in the creative process and was featured in *Gentry Magazine* in March 2018.



"Perplexed"

In that same "Rube Goldberg" spirit, Sculptor **Paul Rubas** ([paulrubas.com](http://paulrubas.com)) piques our curiosity with his unique constructions made of wood, stone and metal. He was born in the former Czechoslovakia and now lives



"Bocol"

and works in Belmont. Paul is fascinated with found objects that he rearranges, sculpts and polishes into refined garden-sized sculptures and table-top pieces that reflect his industrial and comic sensibilities.



"Nested Spirals Variation"

Russian-born Origami Artist **Kate** (Ekaterina) **Lukasheva** ([kusudama.me](http://kusudama.me)) "plays" with paper when she's not at her day job coding; her deft fingers shape moving origami shapes that surprise and delight. Her Ph.D. in Differential Equations is a clue to the kind of mind she possesses. Kate maps her tessellated designs on a computer screen for precision, then she hand works and colors the paper to make kusudama and modular origami, which she calls "pure geometric beauty."

Sculptor **Ted Ullman** ([athertonarts.org](http://athertonarts.org).) was inspired by the creation of molecular forms he encountered during his first career as a chemist. He points out that sculpting in wood with its infinite complexities of grain, color, density, and imperfections poses many creative challenges. His pieces are abstractions from human, animal, and natural forms and sometimes simply shapes inspired by mathematical functions, leaving the viewer to interpret meaning.



*"Orbital"*



*"Carnival Dancer"*

We featured Vietnamese-American **Xuan My Ho's** mosaics ([swanmosaic.com](http://swanmosaic.com)) in our AAF Autumn/Winter 2017 Newsletter. She shapes colorful glass shards and bits of broken ceramics into sculptures inspired by Spanish Artist/Architect Antoni Gaudi (b. 1852-d. 1926). She is currently working on beautiful mosaic mandalas in her King's Mountain studio.

Jewelry designer and sculptor, **Barbara Berk** ([barbaraberkdesigns.com](http://barbaraberkdesigns.com)) spins golden threads in her studio at the Peninsula Museum of Art in Burlingame. Her creations made of precious metal wires bring to mind the treasures of Ancient Egypt or Medieval metalwork masterpieces.



*"Lace Seven"*



*"Trophy Time"*

AAF Member Artist, **Ginger Slonaker** ([gingerslonaker.com](http://gingerslonaker.com)), was born in The Pacific Islands, grew up in Washington, D.C., and spent several years in The Netherlands before arriving in the Bay Area. Her surrealistic style and use of playful bright colors may at first appear jaunty and comical. With further study, viewers discover how she captures deep themes. She teaches art to children and is one of ten artists featured by the Kids & Art Foundation marking its tenth anniversary.

Russian-born, **Inna Cherneykina** ([inna-art.org](http://inna-art.org)), won the 2017 Gamblin Award of Distinction from the American Impressionist Society. Her classical still lifes and floral compositions immerse us in the deep beauty of nature drawing upon the Russian masters. Inna uses the alla prima method of applying wet paint on wet paint in loose strokes of color in one sitting. In each painting she challenges the viewer to choose the most important *"prima donna"* flower.



*"Abundance"*



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**Merrie Asimow**, ([asimowphotography.com](http://asimowphotography.com)) who lives in Menlo Park, explores the mood and magic of wildlife, landscapes and portraits through digital photography. She uses computer-based techniques to enhance each image heightening color, light and shadow to bring our focus to the story unfolding. Merrie is particularly interested in highlighting the relationships among and between animals and people. Her work is exhibited in the “Women in Photography International” archives at Yale University.

*“Peaceful”*

Jewelry designer, **Francine Fiesel**, ([jewelsbyfrancine.com](http://jewelsbyfrancine.com)) demonstrates her artistry with fresh water and cultured pearls from the South Seas. She claims “pearls are the jewels that nature provides” and she makes the most of their natural iridescence and color to hand-fashion wearable works of art.



*“Dripping in Pearls”*



*“I was this close to having known you”*

**Michael Endicott** ([michaelbendicott.com](http://michaelbendicott.com)) is an Urban Nature Dynamism photographer and the director of the Edge of Frame Gallery in San Francisco. Raised in the Carribean and educated in biology and environmental law, Michael’s artistic process resembles impressionist, expressionist or even abstract painting. Through “bending” the different wavelengths of light in his original photographs, he alters our understanding of meaning and nature with a view towards shaping the sustainability of the world around us.

The urge to tell a story through the creation of imagery and magical objects that are to be admired from many different points of view is a compelling human desire. Join us in welcoming these local artists who are bringing their diverse perspectives and creativity from around the world.