

ARTLOOK



A community outreach and sourceguide to art in Bakersfield



The Arts District and burgeoning gallery scene offers a unique aesthetic experience in a diversity of spaces.



Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox

Metro Galleries

Below l-r: An exhibition by Quinton Bemiller; and Sculptural objects by Joe Davidson at Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox; Interior of Metro Galleries; and Sculpture by Ann Berg in the Arts District.



The slogan, l'art pour l'art, was decreed by Théophile Gautier, French literary critic and theorist in the early 19th century. Expressing the intrinsic value of art sets the stage for new directions in the local art scene and cultural offerings to the community. This issue presents two local galleries and directors in the city's evolving art landscape.

Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox begins the fall season with an exhibition of the silk, metal, and organic weaving sculptures of Nevada artist Ann Berg. The **2008-09** schedule will feature recent Claremont MFA graduates and LA artists Gianna Vargas, Jessica Curtaz, and Chuck Feesago. Also slated, minimalist sculptor Joe Davidson, an installation by Canadian artist/curator Marianne Elder, and French/Moroccan artist Florence Arnold, who will return in December with her figurative paintings from Casablanca. The gallery will be open **First Friday** in addition to regular hours: F-Sat 1-4pm and by appt. For more info visit: www.jillthayer.com.

Metro Galleries will exhibit new works by LA artists Mary-Austin Klein and Nancy Popenoe (Nov. 7), featuring paintings of **Bakersfield** and its vanishing mid-century architecture and farmland. Emerging artist, new local sensation Johnny Ramos will show his whimsical floral paintings on First Friday, October 3, which are sure to be a hit. Live music on the patio with Isaiah and new works by gallery artists. First Friday is a monthly event to engage the community in the revitalizing of the **Downtown Arts District**. Galleries, boutiques, and specialty shops stay open late, (5-8pm) featuring a variety of special offerings. **First Friday** in October will hail the return of the "Up on the Roof" party, a 5K race, art openings at several galleries, and more.

Art for Art's Sake



THE

Arts

D I S T R I C T



BAKERSFIELD MUSEUM OF ART

1930 R Street Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 323 7219 / T-F 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun 12-4pm
Bernard Herman, Executive Director
www.bmoa.org

LARRY E. RIEDER GALLERY

Arts Council of Kern Offices
2000 K Street, Suite 110, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 324 9000 / T-F 11am-4pm
Jeanette Richardson, Executive Director
www.kernarts.org

THE YOUNGER CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

1430 Truxtun Ave., Suite 105, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 324 9000 / T-Th 11am-4pm, F 11am-6pm
Nicole Garvin, Curator
www.kernarts.org
Juried contemporary and functional art

TODD MADIGAN GALLERY

California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, CA 93311
661 654 2487 / W-Sat 3:30-6pm
Michael Johnson, Director
www.csub.edu/art/gallery

WYLIE AND LOUISE JONES GALLERY

Bakersfield College, Main Campus
1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305
661 395 4616 / M-Th 1-7pm
Margaret Nowling, Director
www2.bc.cc.ca.us/art



JILL THAYER GALLERIES AT THE FOX

1700 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 328 9880 / F-Sat 1-4pm and by Appt.
Jill Thayer, Director
www.jillthayer.com
Contemporary works of regional and international artists

METRO GALLERIES

1604 19th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 634 9598 / T-F 11am-5pm, Sat 12-4pm
Don Martin, Director
www.themetrogalleries.com
Contemporary and abstract works from mid-career and emerging artists of California

SURFACE GALLERY

1703 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 323 4090 / Sat 12-4pm and by Appt.
Yvonne Cavanagh, Director
Vikki Cruz, Director
www.surface-gallery.blogspot.com
Emerging contemporary artists

THE UNDERGROUND GALLERY

1525 19th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661 304 9741
W-Sat 2:30-6:30pm
Mike and Tammy Niemann, Curators
www.myspace.com/theundergroundgallery
Consortium gallery of local artists

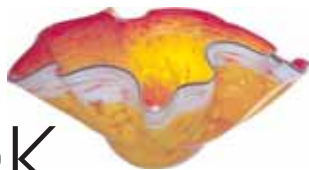


Contributor
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Don Martin

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Jill Thayer

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Clockwise from top:
Artwork by Ann Berg;
Digital Media by Jill Thayer;
Sculpture by Brad Howe;
Artwork by Florence Arnold;
Glass by Gary Feldman; and
Photograph by Anita Bunn.



Jill Thayer

Photos and art clockwise at right: Plexi installation by Jill Thayer at the gallery; Guests enjoy an artist reception for photographer Glenn KM Chang; Jill and Dr. Marla Iyasere with Ed Ruscha at his Venice studio during Jill's Master Thesis. Jill was project coordinator for the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation contemporary exhibition at Todd Madigan Gallery in 2003, working with Director Billie Milam Weisman, University faculty, staff, and community members in the project benefitting the CSUB Fine Arts Merit Award Scholarship fund.

A World of Possibilities

Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox opened in 1994 as part of the Fox Theater restoration. An artist, award-winning designer, and gallerist, Jill offers new perspectives in art to our community. Over the last 15 years, original works displayed by local talent broadened to include emerging, mid-career and established artists working in various methodologies and theoretical frameworks. Multi-cultural, mixed-media exhibitions have been showcased by regional and international contemporary artists from Brazil, South America, Korea, Italy, Israel, Spain, Canada, Thailand, Mexico, Australia, France, Morocco, and the United States. The gallery has received critical review in *Artweek* and is noted in *Art in America*, *Artist's & Graphic Designer's Market*, and *Art Business News, New York*.

Jill received a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from California State University, Bakersfield and completed doctoral coursework at Claremont Graduate University in the PhD program of Cultural Studies/Museum Studies with emphases in exhibition theory, contemporary art history, design theory, and visual culture. She was concurrently accepted to the CGU Art program, combining theory and practice with studio work in painting, digital media, and installation. A summer transdisciplinary study followed at St. Peter's College, Oxford, England with international business students of Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management. Her research explored the effects of European Union expansion on artistic creation, commerce, and culture. She is preparing for her dissertation in the theoretical constructs of art viewership and will be part of a group show at L2k Gallery in LA's Chinatown in August 2009.

Jill also mentors students and upcoming artists as she welcomes the new galleries to the Arts District. She invites the community to explore the numerous venues in both visual and performing arts.



Jill Thayer's solo exhibition at Claremont Graduate University East Gallery entitled *Belief Systems* (June 2006) comprised of a twelve-piece Plexiglas installation alluding to the apparatus one constructs in living within a universal context.

From right: Jill with artist Walter Gabrielson; Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox; Theater clock tower; Fine Art+Flowers exhibition and Bill DeVine painting; *Artists of the Orient*, a special exhibition featuring top artists from the Mansudae Studio of North Korea (DPRK), Jill with delegation in ceremonial costume.





Don Martin

Clockwise at right: Metro Gallery; Artwork by Bonnie Hineline-Kempner; Mary-Austin Klein; Kristin Jai Klosterman; Metro Gallery Director Don Martin; Artwork by Kristin Jai Klosterman; and Bill Ryan.



The Fine Art of Living



Metro Galleries

Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox

ARTLOOK

*S p o t l i g h t o n
G a l l e r i s t s*

Creative, determined, and focused are just a few of the words used to describe Don Martin. Since he introduced downtown to his **Metro Galleries**, an art gallery that makes you feel you are visiting a much larger metropolitan area, the arts scene in downtown Bakersfield has truly blossomed.

After leaving a career in local television news, Martin has set his sights on raising the bar of the quality of life in Bakersfield by expanding the community's exposure to what he calls the fine art of living. Metro Galleries primarily showcases California artists who are emerging or in mid-career and specialize in modern and contemporary art. In addition, Metro Galleries will be expanding this year with a new wine bar. The wine bar will specialize in wine, organic coffees and teas and small plates.

