



Featured Artist - Jason Branz

Second Saturday Reception - April 9, 2-5 pm



“Photographer”
 “Glassblower”
 “Meteorologist”

Generally viewed as three different professions for three different people, they all come together in the work (and in the heart) of Sacramento artist and scientist, Jason Branz.

Known for the extraordinary drama he evokes where others record simple landscapes, Jason traces his unique brand of photography to his lifelong fascination with weather. And recently, he credits his photography with inspiring his glass-blowing.

Raised on a farm in rural Missouri, the first thing Jason says he photographed was “weather.”

“I’ve loved the weather from a very, very young age – probably younger than I can remember.”

So when his parents gave him his first camera, he “would go out on the front porch and photo-

graph the weather coming in.”

“What sets me apart as a landscape photographer is my weather work, my storm-chasing... It’s not difficult to take a decent picture of Yosemite, or the Grand Canyon or some other National Park.”

“But with weather, you have to know how it works. You have to know where the weather is going to be at a certain time, on a



certain day. You can’t just drive up to weather and take a picture of it – like you can a National Park. You have to forecast what the weather is going to do, then have enough knowledge of how the light is going to play with the weather, to be able to make a good photograph out of it.”

Since 2006, Jason’s “day job” has been Air Pollution Specialist for California’s Air Resources Board, based in Sacramento.

But it was during his graduate studies in Meteorology at Texas Tech that he got into “storm-chasing.” Around Lubbock, Texas, “there are no land forms of any significance. Because the land is flat, you can see forever, and there’s good roads... So it’s easy to roam the plains – for weeks if you want – just chasing storms.”

“Blue skies are fine if you want to shoot pictures of kids or portraits... But if you want a good compelling landscape image, it needs to have some kind of weather element to make it interesting, because weather brings shadows... Clouds hover around the rocks and give them an extra dimension, like a veil, like fog. Lightning, of course, is interesting anyway – as long as you don’t get hit by it...and rainbows, people love rainbows...”



(Continued on page 2)

“...a mix of science e’ art”

(Continued from page 1)

Later in life, Jason discovered glassblowing - and this show focuses on glass “inspired” by recent photographs of wildflowers.

Like meteorology and photography, he loves glassblowing for its “mix of science and art”

“That’s kind of what I view my life as - a mix of science and art.”

“You use heat and gravity to determine shape and color” and “you can make shapes that mimic elements of photographs.”

“A lot of my bowls are patterned after wildflowers. It’s just a natural form for glass to take...If you have enough heat in the piece, you can spin it out, then hang it down and ruffle it, and it comes out looking like a wildflower... Or sometimes I will take the color patterns of a photograph, transfer those to a glass piece.”

Then, coming full circle - the art of photographing the flowers that inspire the glass is also based on the science of weather.

“California poppies are all curled up till about 10-10:30 in the morning. Then they flare out, and then they start curling up again about 4 in the afternoon. So if you want to shoot a wide-open, California poppy field, you’ve got to do it in the early afternoon - which is typically not a good time for photography, because the light is really harsh.”

“Shooting wildflowers is a lot like storm-chasing, because you’re in rural areas, you’re driving a lot of back roads, you’re out in the elements. That doesn’t last long.”

Always open to the next challenge, Jason says he has an “aha’ moment” every time he goes out

on a photo-trip or working in the glass shop. “I learn something new every time. There is always some new skill to sharpen or to learn. Or some angle I’ve never seen it from before.”

“I’ve shot ‘Half-Dome’ 100 times, and every time there was something different for me to photograph.” Indeed, his “most popular” photograph (page 1) is actually of “North Dome” catching the same light.

Always, his goal is to capture the “essence” of a scene. “You need to capture not just the visual - but the smell of the scene,...the humidity or the grass or whatever

sense is there.”

“I love that experience - of just being outdoors, being in nature, standing where the wind’s gonna blow... And I want people to look at a picture I take and be able to have that experience. I want people to get that emotion.”

Often with photographers, people assume exquisite work must require exotic equipment. Not for Jason - just a digital SLR camera, tripod and 3 lenses - standard, zoom and extra-wide angle.

“I spend my money traveling to the spots, not on camera equipment,” he says.

“It’s about being there.”



ACG Artists in the Community

30 paintings & photographs exhibited at Casa Gardens Restaurant to benefit Sacramento Children's Home

For the months of April, May and June, six members of our gallery will have their work shown on the walls of the Casa Gardens Restaurant.

Since 1973, the Los Niños Service League has operated this facility to provide year-round fund raising for the Sacramento Children's Home in Curtis Park. Open to the public as a restaurant - and also available for weddings, meetings, private parties - proceeds and gratuities have totaled close to \$2.9 million to benefit children's programs and services.

Paintings selected are landscapes and abstractions - traditional painting and photography, plus new forms of metal torching and fabric collage.



Elaine Yamada Teaches Wire-Wrap Technique

Elaine Yamada was invited to present a wire wrap demonstration for the Camellia City Porcelain Artists Club



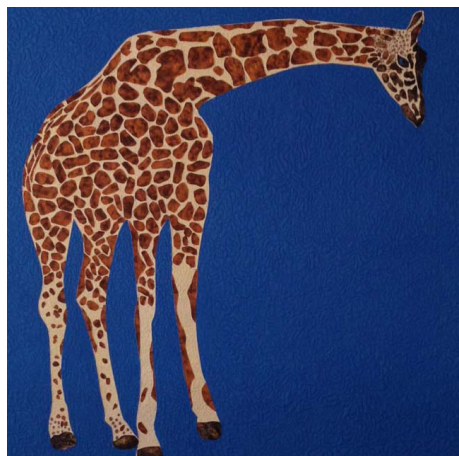
at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center on March 28 - teaching members how to wire-wrap their painted porcelain pendants.



ACG artists (top to bottom)
Grant Kreinberg, Marleen
Hoffman, Ray Borton, Diedre
Daugherty, Louise Thompson
Schiele

Floral Designer & Painter @ the Pence

Photographer Ray Borton turns floral designer with Karen Fess painting of rare Gerberas for "Bloom2" show at the Pence gallery in Davis through April 19.



Sandy Lindblad Juries "Arduarks to Zebras"

Sandy Lindblad, known for her colorful portraits of animals, juried the show named "Critters: Aardvark to Zebras" at the Rancho Cordova City Hall April 4 - July 18, with opening reception April 14, 5:30-7:30 pm. One of the works included is "Giraffe in Blue Box" by Louise Thompson Schiele.

Artists' Collaborative Gallery

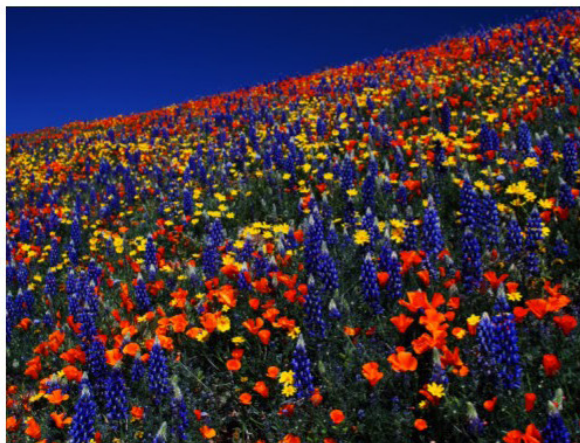
Jason Branz

Photography / Blown Glass

April 4—May 8, 2016

Second Saturday Reception:

April 9th, 2-5PM



129 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 916-444-7125 www.artcollab.com

Hours: 7/days per week 11am—6pm

Newsletter Editor - Marcia Ruth - KinestheticClassics@gmail.com