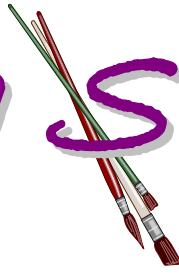




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

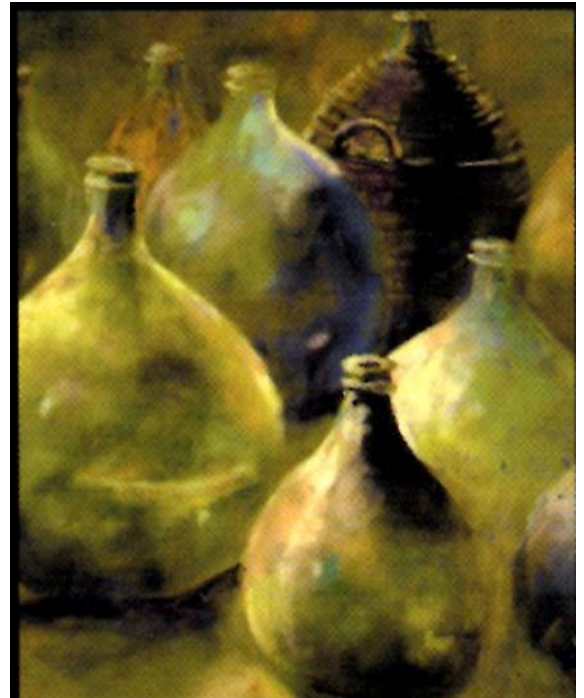
September 2010 Vol. 3, No. 9

California Art Scene 2010

The past two weeks I have been touring the Southern California art scene. It was with great anticipation and good timing that a trip to the Festival of the Arts at Laguna Beach, CA became the most memorable part of my vacation.

Shown on the right is a painting by Christine Bowman whose work was so enjoyable. And below is a painting by Scott Albert who has done a fabulous job of painting the California seacoast in watercolor. Both subjects have been handled in a very skillful manner, and neither one of them were easy.

If you have an opportunity to visit Southern California, be sure to take in the Laguna Festival of the Arts. The show runs for six weeks in the summertime and closes usually on August 31.



The highlight of the show is the Pageant of the Masters which occurs after dark. Ninety minutes of living pictures—all incredibly faithful art re-creations of classical and contemporary works with real people posing to look exactly like their counterparts in the original pieces are reproduced on the outdoor amphitheater stage. Accompanied by a professional orchestra, original score, live narration, intricate sets, sophisticated lighting, expert staff and hundreds of dedicated volunteers, this Pageant is the best presentation of its kind. The show has been performed each summer since 1941 when it was first opened to the public.



During the day works of art juried into the show, circle the inside of the compound and are beautifully presented for sale and purchase by the thousands of visitors who attend this show. To be allowed to participate in the art show is an honor since

a fresh jury is selected each year and even though many of the artists are accepted year after year, they have to be re-adjudicated each year with fresh and newly created work. What an experience! It will be a part of my vacation memories for a lifetime.