



Photo: N. Hamilton Niede

Student Art Event Broadens Perspectives

BY RENEE BRINCKS

The Carmel Art Association showcases the work of local high schoolers. (Above) Former members Salvador Dali, Philip L. Nesbitt, Armin Hansen and Maxine Albro.

In February, the Carmel Art Association's (CAA) "For the Love of Art" exhibit spotlights work by approximately 80 local high schoolers. For some, participation means mastering real-world skills like submitting pieces for gallery consideration and writing an artist's statement. For others, it opens new worlds.

"Some participants have never visited a gallery. This event eases the fear of walking into such places," says CAA member Pamela Takigawa, who chairs the event committee. "Whether or not students plan an art career, their futures will be enriched."

Launched in the 1930s, the competition counts honorary CAA member Salvador Dali among its past jurors. These days, organizers invite five students from each Monterey County

high school to participate. Students receive standard wooden panels, ensuring equal access for teens from all economic backgrounds. Category winners receive prizes, plus a spot in a printed calendar.

Collectors can also purchase the artwork on display. "I usually fall in love with the work and buy a piece," says Takigawa. "It boosts young artists' confidence when someone likes their work enough to take it home."

The Carmel Art Association Gallery displays "For the Love of Art" from February 6 through March 3. A February 8 opening reception and awards ceremony takes place from 5-7pm at the gallery on Dolores Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, Carmel. For details, please visit carmelart.org or call 831/624-6176.