

# Emerald Art Center

## Spring Exhibition Blooms in May

By: Todd Peterson



### *Chai*

Jerry Dame  
Harrisburg, OR

### *Julia*

Sarkis Antikgian  
Cheshire, OR

### *The Guitar Player*

Linda Kaye  
Springfield, OR

### *Wetland Path*

Kate McGee  
Eugene, OR

### *End of a Beautiful Day*

Genie Roberts  
Springfield, OR

Cover Art: *A Cut Above*  
Lavonne Tarbox-Crone

Little did Gladys Bacon-Rust know what a success the national juried art show she started three years ago would be today. The Emerald Spring Exhibition at Emerald Art Center this month offers a selection of paintings that any city the world would be proud of.

Inspired by an annual art show she enjoyed while living in Taos, New Mexico, Gladys set about to create one for our community of Springfield. "Emerald Art Center had never had a juried show and I felt that competition is a great way to encourage artists to hone their skills."

Working year-round on the event as a volunteer, Gladys and two other volunteers did all the planning for the first two years. "I learned how to do it by the seat of my pants and with a lot of help from other artists at the Center."

"This year I had a wonderful group of eight women artists to work with," Gladys adds. "I still did most of the money raising and spent untold hours organizing, overseeing, and handling details while incorporating what we've learned from previous years. I'm starting to learn to let go and rely on our committee of very talented women with special skills. The results have been amazing."

The exhibition received a record number of entries from over 200 artists across the nation. It attracted 546 entries from thirty states. The juror selected 55 finalists representing fifteen states. Oregon topped all other states with 22 paintings in the final selection, 11 of which are from artists living in Springfield and surrounding communities.

The juror for the exhibition, Robert Burridge, from Arroyo Grande, California is a fine art painter and teacher who has been an international juror for many art organizations. His colorful works of still life, landscapes, and interiors in watercolor, acrylic, and oil are sold in galleries worldwide. He will be teaching a water media workshop at the art center in January 2009.

"We are very pleased to have such a talented artist serve as our juror," said Cheryl Leontina, Executive Director of the Emerald Art Center. "He had a very difficult job selecting from the many truly world-class paintings we received this year."

"I'm so proud of the work Gladys and her committee of volunteers have done to produce the spring exhibition," said Leontina. "They've given Springfield, Eugene, and Lane County an extraordinary gift of art that will give everyone who sees the show a "WOW" experience. It's the only national juried show of its kind in Oregon and, as far as I know, the whole Northwest."

The art exhibition will be held throughout the month of May with an 'Artist Reception and Award Ceremony' scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> between 5:30 – 7:30pm. Located in the heart of Springfield's downtown at 5th & Main, the Emerald Art Center opened in 2002 after year's of renovating the Gerlach Drug Store in the Sutton Block building dating from 1909. It is the cornerstone for the historical cultural district which includes the Springfield Museum, Wildish Theater, and the Academy of Arts & Academics. It is open from 11am – 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday and there is no charge for visitors. Memberships are available. For further information call 726-8595.