



Ojai Gallery 353 Classic art, modern venue

353 Montana Road, Ojai, CA 93023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vivian Sudhalter
v_sudhalter@sbcglobal.net

FEB. 26th RECEPTION AT UNIQUE OJAI GALLERY

Ojai, CA – February 15, 2012. In a town known as a mecca for viewing and purchasing quality art, Ojai Gallery 353 promises art lovers a truly unique experience. On Sunday, February 26th, visitors are invited to an open house reception from 2 to 4 pm at Ojai Gallery 353. Built into the private home of architect/owner Jeff Weinstein, AIA and his family, the recently opened Gallery provides a light-filled, friendly environment for viewing fine art as it might look in your own home.

Visitors who step into the multi-story space, custom designed by Jeff, can enjoy the work of five exceptional artists whose paintings are currently on display. Comfortable seating, a handsome stone fireplace, and an open view of the landscape enhance the experience. During the reception, all works on display will be offered at 10% off the label price. The Gallery specializes in outstanding work by local and Central Coast artists, and offers a variety of styles and mediums including pastel, oil, and watercolors. Many of the paintings are plein air, redolent of this region's special qualities of light and beauty.

Highly talented local artists featured in the current installation are Ruben Franco, Emily Goldfield, Norman Kirk, Timothy Scott Markonis, and Lynn Byrne Simon.

Ruben Franco, born in Guadalajara, Mexico, currently resides in Ojai, where he paints impressionistic landscapes of the Ojai Valley, views of Spanish California in the early 19th century, and colorful still life paintings of fruits and flowers. His work has been shown at the Ojai Valley Inn and at many galleries, is included among the private collection of Anthony Hopkins, as well as the corporate collections of Chevron and Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Emily Goldfield's path to painting, begun in Brooklyn, NY, led to a Doctorate in Fine Arts from USC. Described as a painter in the Romantic Realist style, she continues to be inspired by the

More . . .

early masters of the great American West, and is a member of the Pastel Society of America. Emily is also an active member of the plein air group, Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains & Seashore. She has exhibited in juried shows throughout southern California.

Norman Kirk, schooled in the classics at Cleveland Museum of Art, is best known for his watercolor paintings. He has won countless awards and has been in many exhibitions including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. His paintings are found in private and public collections, including those of Jonathan Winters, Larry Hagman, and various prominent corporations. Norm is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, and the Gold Coast Watercolor Society.

Timothy Scott Markonis, originally started out as a set designer, illustrator and commercial artist for Hollywood and Las Vegas, but gradually discovered his passion as a plein air landscape oil painter. Tim is a member of The Santa Barbara Art Association and SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment). His work has been shown at Bottoms Art Gallery, Weldon Road Studio Gallery, and CHalk Gallery, among others.

Lynn Byrne Simon, inspired to paint at a very early age, studied painting at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia and The New School in New York City. Upon moving to California, she focused on the landscape and how pastels express the texture and raw color of nature. Lynn has continued her art education by studying with Richard McKinley, Bert Collins, and others, and is currently President of the Pastel Society of the Gold Coast.

The Weinstein home, a modern California ranch-style building filled with light and space, was completed in July 2008. The family hosts various community gatherings, and was selected as one of four unique venues for the Ojai Music Festival's 2011 annual Holiday Home Look In.

For more details on the Gallery, the artists and the work currently on display, visit the web site <http://OjaiGallery353.com>. Ojai Gallery 353 is located at 353 Montana Road, Ojai, CA. It is open seven days a week (except holidays) on Monday - Friday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday & Sunday, 12 noon to 6 pm. The public is welcome to view the art and enjoy refreshments during the reception on Sunday, February 26th from 2 to 4 pm. At other times, please phone ahead: (805) 798-0010.

###