

Karen Foster-Wells

4075 SHADOW CANYON RD.
P.O. Box 1114
TEMPLETON, CALIFORNIA 93465
(805) 239-9260 FAX (805) 239-8413
www.karenfosterartist.com

EDUCATION

- 1962 *AA Degree*, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, California
1963–1964 Advertising Art School, Portland, Oregon
1965–1967 Laguna Beach School of Art and Design (now called The Art Institute of Southern California), Laguna Beach, California
1967–1968 University of California, Irvine
1977 San Bernardino College Extension, San Bernardino, California

SYMPOSIUMS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- 1997, 98, 2000 UCSB Summer Session, *Contemporary Landscape Painting Symposium*, moderated by Hank Pitcher.
February 2000 Attended week-long *workshop* with M. Douglas Walton in Cayucos, California. Learned various wet-into-wet techniques for use with acrylic, latex and watercolor.
July 2001 Assisted Libby Tolley in her second *Plein Air Painting workshop*. Offered assistance to students with their preliminary drawings and sketches for oil paintings.
Fall 2001 Attended three-day *Oil Painting workshop* with Ken Auster, sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Art Center.
May 2001 Attended *Oil Painting workshop* with Ken Christensen, sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Art Center.
January 2002 Attended the American Society of Portrait Artists' *'The Art and Practice of Portrait Painting'*, a 3-day conference and demonstration featuring Michael Del Priore, Sherry McGraw and Craig Nelson. Academy of Art, San Francisco, California.
Fall 2002 Attended Artist Magazine's *Ultimate Artists Conference*, featuring Daniel Greene, Kevin McPherson, Dean Mitchell, Milford Zornes among others, Palm Springs, California.
Fall 2002 Taos Art School, *A Week of Painting and Horses with Justin Tso and Family in Cañon de Chelly*, Arizona.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 1963 to present *Illustrator* — Free-lance work has included drafting, medicine, architecture, natural history, real estate, equestrian, portraiture, and archaeology.
1964 *Commissioned Artist* — Painted portraits of polo ponies in Oregon.
1964 *Draftsman* — Created technical illustrations for a patent attorney, Portland, Oregon.
1973 *Illustration* — Doctoral Thesis, Space Sciences Lab, Berkeley, California.
1977 to 1978 *Artist* — Created pen and ink "House Portraits", individual private commissions for stationery and greeting cards, Lake Arrowhead, California.
1977 to 1978 *Artist, Illustrator, Ad Sales, Food Columnist, Delivery Person* — *The Crestline Courier*, Crestline, California.
1977 to 1979 *Illustrator* — *The Mountain News*, Jean Preston Real Estate, Lake Arrowhead.
1978 *Designer* — California Decorative Metal, Cedar Glen, California.
1979 *Architectural Rendering* — Site Proposal, for Edward C. Jenkins AIA, Ventura, California.

- 1979 *Aerial Photography and Site Proposal Rendering* — For Rancho Oso, Santa Barbara.
- 1979 *Book Design and Production* — *Haiku*, for Capra Press, Santa Barbara.
- 1981 to 1985 *Medical Illustrator* — Pudenz-Schulte Medical Research, Goleta, California. Worked with research doctors to illustrate new medical procedures.
- 1982 *Fine Art Illustration* — Brochure for Camp Laurel Springs, Santa Barbara.
- 1983 to 1985 *Technical Artist* — Delco Electronics, Goleta.
- 1984 to 1985 *Illustrator* — Created illustrations for the book: *Birdwatching, a Guide for Beginners*, by Joan Easton Lentz and Judith Young (Capra Press, Santa Barbara, 1985).
- 1985 *Fine Art Illustration* — *Bird List*, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.
- 1986 to 1987 *Illustrator* — Front cover art, *Leisure Magazine*, published by the Country News, Paso Robles, California.
- 1992 to 1993 *Illustrator* — State Parks and Recreation Fund. Commission administered by the City of Lompoc, California. Designed signs for new State Park site. Created a painting for Lompoc City Hall, to be reproduced as educational material in traveling display for public school system, and as part of a Museum of Lompoc diorama. Sales of posters benefitted the museum.
- 1993 to 1994 *Illustrator* — The Nature Conservancy Carrizo Plain Visitor Center, Carrizo Plain, California. Created illustrations for permanent display depicting wildlife and ecosystems for visitor education.
- 1994 *Fine Art Illustration* — Created pencil drawings for the book: *RANCHOS*, published by Ellen Easton, Ellen Easton Gallery, 1996.
- 1994 and 1995 *Illustrator* — Painted color covers for *North County Access*, North San Luis Obispo County telephone directories.
- 1994 to 1997 *Graphic Artist* — *Cambria Directory* and *Castle Country*, published by *The Cambrian* newspaper. Painted color cover for *Castle Country* in 1996.
- 1997 *Illustrator* — Created illustration for Santa Barbara Land Trust (in conjunction with UCSB) to be used on invitations to Oak Group and Guests art exhibition to benefit Sedgwick Ranch Acquisition.
- 1997 to 1998 *Fine Art Illustration* — Proposal renderings for renovation project, Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum.
- 1998 *Illustrator* — Created illustrations for the book: *Trust in Yourself*, by Jaya Sarada (Grace Foundation Publishing, 1998).
- 1998 *Package Design* — *Hot Chile Chocolate* for Hermann's Chocolate Lab, Templeton, California, with David Butz' computer assistance.
- 1998 and 1999 *Graphic Artist, Illustrator* — Created invitations for *Wild Horses Benefit Equine Art Show*. Proceeds benefit Foundation for Horses and Other Animals (FHOA).
- 1998 and 1999 *Commissioned Artist* — *Donor's Appreciation Tile Project* for Friends of Santa Cruz Island, to be installed at Santa Cruz Island, California.
- 1999 *Fine Art Illustration* — Full-color back cover art for *Purebred Lab Breeder's Magazine*.
- 2001 *Artist* — Creating color cover illustration for the book: *The Path of Return*, by Jaya Sarada (Grace Foundation Publishing, 1998).
- 2001 *Illustrator* — Created the illustrations for the 2001 annual appeal brochure for the *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History*.
- 2001 *Publisher* — Published a book of my mother's pen and ink drawings accompanied by her brother's poetry: *Exult with Me* by Kelvin Ray and Margaret Foster. First edition July, second edition September, 2001.
- 2001 *Illustrator* — Illustrated animals (and compiled my mother's original illustrations) for the third printing of the *San Luis Obispo County Trail Guide*, published by the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, 2001.

- 2002 *Designer/Illustrator* — Created complete identity including Farmer's Market tent, truck signs, business cards and postcards for *5-Dog Farm Naturally Grown Produce*, Templeton, California.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1979 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California.
 1988 Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Morro Bay, California.
 1989 Great Western Bank, San Luis Obispo, California.
 1993 Featured Artist, Cayucos Art Association Gallery, Cayucos, California.
 1993 Chelsea Bookshop, Paso Robles, California.
 1993 Featured Artist, Paso Robles Art Association Gallery, Paso Robles.
 1998 Solo Art Display Booth in *Equitana*, Louisville, Kentucky. Original art and prints, for the benefit of Wild Horse Foundation, Santa Barbara.
 Spring 2002 *Savoring the Seasons*, a one-woman show of plein air paintings, Summerwood Winery, Paso Robles.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1966 Group exhibition, Alexander Cowie Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
 1966 *Laguna Beach Festival of Art* exhibition, Laguna Beach, California.
 1967 *Student Fine Art* group exhibition, University of California, Irvine.
 1976 Two-person show, Tantamount Theater, Carmel Valley, California.
 1977 *Harvest*, Three-person painting exhibition, Lake Arrowhead, California.
 1986 *Water Level, A Painting Show about Water*, Cabrillo Art Center, Santa Barbara.
 1986 to 1996 Group exhibitions to benefit Santa Barbara Small Wilderness Area Preservation in its efforts to secure the Wilcox Property, Santa Barbara.
 1986 to 1999 *Nature Preserved*, the annual Oak Group exhibition to benefit The Nature Conservancy. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Library, Santa Barbara.
 1987 to 1999 *Endangered Landscapes*, an annual Oak Group exhibition, various galleries, Santa Barbara.
 1991 to 1999 Spring benefit exhibition, The Nature Conservancy Santa Cruz Island Gallery, Stanton Ranch, Santa Cruz Island, California.
 1993 *Santa Barbara Backcountry*, an Oak Group exhibition, Museum of Natural History Gallery, Santa Barbara.
 1993 *Strong Spirit*, Santa Maria Museum Art Center, Santa Maria, California.
 1993 *The Art of California: Twenty Top Landscape Artists*, Selections from the Art Brown Collection, The Columbia Club Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 1993 San Luis Outdoor Painters Enterprise (SLOPE) exhibition, Atrium Gallery, U.S. Forest Service Building, Goleta, California.
 1993 SLOPE exhibition, Department of Forestry, Washington, D.C.
 1993 to 1994 SLOPE exhibition to benefit the Trust for Public Lands in their efforts to secure the Sur Sur Ranch in San Luis Obispo County, California.
 1994 SLOPE exhibition to benefit Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) in their efforts to save the 130 acre Elfin Forest on the Morro Bay Estuary, California.
 1994 Group exhibition, Barlett Fine Art Gallery, Pleasanton, California.

- 1994 *ISLANDIA*, Selections from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation Collection, Channing Peake Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 1994 *For the Land's Sake*, a SLOPE exhibition, Santa Maria Museum Center Gallery, Santa Maria.
- 1994 *Los Ranchos de Santa Barbara*, an exhibition of paintings to be published in the book *RANCHOS*, De la Guerra House, Santa Barbara.
- 1994 *Color of Autumn* juried show, Honorable Mention, Paso Robles Art Association Gallery, Paso Robles.
- 1994 to 1996 Channel Islands National Park benefit exhibition, Channel Islands National Park Headquarters, Ventura, California.
- 1996 *Landmark Oak*, Oak Group exhibition, Channing Peake Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 1996 *RANCHOS*, a group exhibition and book signing, Ellen Easton Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 1996 *Oak Group Tenth Anniversary* exhibition, Ellen Easton Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 1997 *Tribute to Ray Strong*, an exhibition and silent auction to benefit museum dioramas, Museum of Natural History Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 1997 Oak Group and Guests art exhibition to benefit Santa Barbara Land Trust (in conjunction with UCSB) at the celebration of the Sedgwick Ranch Acquisition.
- 1997 and 1998 Group exhibition, California Heritage Gallery, San Francisco, California.
- 1997 to 1998 Represented by Waterside Gallery, Morro Bay, California.
- 1998 Juried exhibition, Carnegie Library, Oxnard, California.
- 1998 *Equitana International Horse Expo*, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1998 and 1999 *Ranches and Rolling Hills*, an exhibition to benefit the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), Druid's Hall, Nicasio, California.
- 1998 and 1999 *Wild Horses Benefit Equine Art Show* to benefit Foundation for Horses and Other Animals (FHOA), Santa Barbara.
- 1999 Oak Group exhibition to benefit *Hollister Ranch Conservancy Education Fund*, Gaviota, California.
- 1999 and 2000 *Handmade Holiday*, Johnson Gallery & Framing Studio, San Luis Obispo, California.
- 2000 Group exhibition, *Winter Bird Festival*, to benefit North Coast Audubon, Morro Bay.
- 2000 Group exhibition, *In the Footsteps of Fernand Lundgren: Contemporary views*, College of Creative Studies, Santa Barbara.
- 2000 Group exhibition, *Ranches and Rolling Hills*, to benefit the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Nicasio, Marin County, California.
- 2000 and 2002 *Horse Expo*, two paintings selected for show, Sacramento, California.
- 2000 Oak Group exhibition, *Island Magic*, to benefit the Friends of Santa Cruz Island (TNC), on Santa Cruz Island.
- 2000 *Color of Autumn*, 7th annual juried exhibition, Paso Robles Art Association. Two paintings juried into show, "Winter River", acrylic, won the Grand Prize \$1000 Martin and Weyrich Winery Award.
- 2000 *Art Walk*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Oak Group Featured Artists.
- 2000 and 2001 *Preserving Nature*, Oak Group and guests exhibition to benefit the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County and The Nature Conservancy, Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 2000–2001 Group exhibition, Carnegie Western Art Gallery, Paso Robles.
- 2001 *Newcomers*, San Luis Obispo Art Center juried show for new members.

- June 2001 *Fifteenth Anniversary Exhibit*, Oak Group, Lacuna Gallery, Santa Barbara.
- 2001 Group exhibition, Cayucos Art Association, Cayucos California.
- 2001to 2003 Participated as an Exhibiting Artist in the *Western Art, Music and Poetry Festival*, Mid State Fairgrounds, Paso Robles. Sponsored by San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau.
- September 2001 *The Defining Decade*, The Nature Conservancy Santa Cruz Island Gallery, Stanton Ranch, Santa Cruz Island. Art show and sale celebrating the Oak Group's 10-year partnership with The Nature Conservancy for benefitting the island.
- Fall 2001 *Soul of Gaviota*, a juried show to benefit Rancho Arroyo Hondo and the Gaviota Coast, Cabrillo Art Center, Santa Barbara.
- Winter 2001 Participated in juried National Water Media show, Chico, California.
- March–May 2002 *Land and Legacy*, Oak Group and other artists, Monterey Museum of Art. An exhibit to benefit the *Big Sur Land Trust*, celebrating the lands saved in the last 25 years.
- May 2002 Group exhibition to benefit the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), Nicasio, Marin County, California.
- September 2002 *Art Walk*, 14th annual Festival of Art, featuring The Oak Group, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.
- Oct–Nov 2002 *Draft Horse Classic*, Exhibitor, Nevada City, California.
- July 2003 Exhibiting Artist and First Prize in Painting, *Cowboy Art Festival*, Big Bear, California.
- September 2003 Created and donated art to benefit *CASA Voices for Children*, Santa Margarita Ranch, Santa Margarita, California.
- Sept–Oct 2003 *Color of Autumn*, 10th annual juried exhibition, Paso Robles Art Association. “Riding Home”, oil, won the \$100 Pete Johnston General Motors Award.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- March 2003 Participated as a Quick Draw Artist for the auction at the *Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival*, Santa Clarita, California.
- July 2003 Demonstrated Quick Draw Acrylic Painting, “*Freehand, Free Spirit*”, at the Cayucos Art Association, Cayucos, California.
- August 2003 Demonstrated and taught workshop “*Drawing and Painting Live Horses in Action*” Wildling Museum, Santa Ynez, California.

AWARDS

- 1992, 1993, 1994 Various awards, Professional Painter Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show.
- 1993 Bronze Medal, Art of California Discovery Awards.
- 1994 First Place, Professional Oil/Acrylic Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show.
- 1994 Honorable Mention, *Color of Autumn* juried show, Paso Robles Art Association.
- 1998 First Place, Professional Oil/Acrylic Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show.
- 1999 Second Place and Judges Award, Professional Oil/Acrylic Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show.
- 2000 First Place and Coordinator's Award: Achievement in Art, Professional Oil/Acrylic Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show. “Beach Mares”—oil painting.
- 2000 First, Second and Third Place Awards: Amateur Digitally Enhanced Photography, California Mid-State Fair Art Show.
- 2000 Best of Show: Martin and Weyrich Winery \$1000 Award, *Color of Autumn* juried show, Paso Robles Art Association, “Winter River”—winner, “Summer River” also accepted.
- 2001 Invited to be included in the 56th edition of *Who's Who in America 2001*.

- 2001 Invited to be included in *Who's Who of America Women 2002*.
- 2001 Honorable Mention, California Mid-State Fair Art Show. "Riding into the Light"—26x36", oil on canvas.
- 2002 Invited to be included in *Who's Who in the World 2003*.
- 2002 Judge's Award, California Mid-State Fair Art Show. "Dally"—18x24," oil on canvas.
- 2003 Coordinator's Award: Achievement in Art, Professional Oil/Acrylic Category, California Mid-State Fair Art Show. "Fresh Start"—20x30" oil on linen.
- 2003 First Prize in Painting Category, *Cowboy Art Festival*, Big Bear, California.
- 2003 Pete Johnston General Motors \$100 Award , *Color of Autumn* juried show, Paso Robles Art Association, "Riding Home".

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1988 October issue, *American Artist Magazine*, "Painters as Preservationists", p. 72-77.
- 1989 Karen appeared as an artist painting on location in the Nipomo Dunes in a television video produced by Mobil Oil and the California State Coastal Conservancy in celebration of the preservation of 2500 acres of the dunes.
- 1994 November issue, *Sunset Magazine*, Article about the Oak Group, p. 92-95.
- 1998 May issue, *The Artist's Magazine*, "Acrylic Hike and Paint Kit". Karen's drawing and description of the unique equipment she takes when painting on location.
- 1998 Karen appeared, as a member of the Oak Group, painting on location in a story about the Marin Agricultural Land Trust in an episode of the *California Heartland* television show.
- April 2000 Karen demonstrated wet-into-wet acrylic painting techniques at the San Luis Obispo Art Center for OPAG (Oil, Pastel, Acrylic Group) inspired by workshop taken in February.
- Winter 2001 Featured Artist, *The Plein Air Scene* Newsletter.
- Spring 2002 Featured Artist, *www.thepleinairscene.com* Directory.
- 2002 Winter issue, *Equine Vision Magazine*, "Les Chevaux de Camargue". A feature article about a series of paintings created during, and inspired by, Karen's visit to Southern France.

AFFILIATIONS

- 1986 to present Member, The Oak Group.
- 1990 to present Member, Cayucos Art Association.
- 1993 to 1995 Founding member, San Luis Outdoor Painters Enterprise (SLOPE).
- 1995 to present Member, California Art Club.
- 2000 to present Member, San Luis Obispo Art Association.
- 2001 to present Associate member, Women Artists of the West (WAOW).
- 2001 to present Member, Paso Robles Art Association.

REPRESENTATION

Karen is represented in over 60 private and public collections in the United States. Her work may be seen in the following locations:

www.karenfosterartist.com

This is Karen's online gallery.

www.art-exchange.com

Giclée prints available for purchase.

www.pleinairscene.com

California Classics

520 Main Street, Templeton, California 93465

(805) 434-0987

www.calclassics.net

Gallery on the Park at Classic American Theatre

810 Eleventh Street, Paso Robles, California 93446

(805) 238-3859 or 237-4490

2003 to present Art Reps — Richard Brookes
Woodland Hills, California

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22–30, 2003 Annual Oak Group exhibition, Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Library,
Santa Barbara.

December 6–18, 2003 Invited to participate in the *Florence (Italy) Biennial International Art Show*.

April 6, 2004 Demonstrating Quick Draw Acrylic Painting accompanied by music, Cayucos Art
Association, Cayucos, California. Benefits the Children's Art Project, Cayucos.

Spring, 2004 *Painting Trip*. Karen is returning to the Camargue, the Rhone Delta on the
Mediterranean in Southern France, this time in conjunction with **Lorraine Rawls**,
Western Female Vocalist of the Year (www.lorrainerawls.com) for a cultural
exchange. They'll participate in the traditional festival celebrating the 500-year-old
Guardian Community involving horsemanship and cattle with indigenous horses,
music, and unique saddlery at the **Maison de Cheval** near Saintes Maries de la
Mer in the Parc Natural. An international travelling exhibit will feature beautiful
photographs by **Kevin Martini-Fuller**, paintings by Karen Foster-Wells, a CD
with new music by Lorraine Rawls in the traditional style of the area, and more!
Sign up at www.karenfosterartist.com for an e-mail newsletter with updates and
photos of this exciting project as it develops!