

Meet Sonoma County Artist Susan R. Ball



by Satri Pencak

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Susan R. Ball in her studio

When Susan Ball moved to Sonoma County in the 1980s, she found the same striking natural beauty that she loved to paint as a child while living in her native English countryside.

Susan paints realistic landscapes and still-life compositions in oils. Her work reveals an inquisitive eye that explores details very closely. The love of the natural world was nurtured from an early age while Susan was

growing up on a farm in England. This passion along with a deep curiosity led her to completing a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and eventually to a career in science.



After relocating to Sonoma

County, she decided to put aside her scientific career and began to paint professionally.

While in England, Susan had been influenced by seeing paintings in the great museums and art collections of London. From the “old country” Susan developed a love for tradition and the lineage of artists who connect back through the centuries.

Susan was also influenced by her many wonderful teachers who opened her eyes to new styles and interpretations.

But now, in capturing the wonders of her new home, Susan says she is inspired by “Weather, storms, quality of light, and the beauty of small forms from the garden.”

She likes to find heirloom varieties at the local farmer’s market which provide outstanding models for her detailed paintings. For Susan it is “nature, first, last, and always!”



Susan appreciates that Sonoma County gives her plenty of space to work in. Her studio is a large and mostly weatherproof barn on the outskirts of Sebastopol. The community of local artists is a valuable asset to Susan in the way that they support each other’s needs, allowing her to feel less like the lone ranger in the isolation of her studio.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a favorite subject for Susan, and its wild, ever-changing panorama of oak trees, tall grasses, and shining waters provide endless subject matter for her. Susan is currently preparing for a

show at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation Art Gallery. The exhibition, *Breathing Space: paintings by Susan Ball*, will be on view from May 1 through Aug. 30. Find out more at www.lagunafoundation.org. Susan exhibits her work at Graton Gallery (www.gratongallery.net), and she will be participating in Art at the Source Open Studios (www.artatthesource.org) in June and Art Trails Open Studios in October. You can also see her work on her website, www.susanrball.com.

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Images:

Laguna de Santa Rosa, by Susan R. Ball

Grapes #2, by Susan R. Ball

nmartin96003@msn.com

From: Susan Ball <Susan@susanrball.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 6:52 PM
To: Nmartin96003@msn.com
Subject: Lemons an Lace

Dear Nancy,

You have reached the right person.

This is a print on canvas, in a limited edition. It should not be hung in direct sunlight, even though there is a UV filter coating on it.

The silver jug was a family piece inherited from my husband's side of the family, and was lent to Charles Becker as a piece to include in his compositions, such as the one below.



You might see it in some of his work online.

The lace was crocheted by my grandmother, and it all rests on my mother's jewelry box, inset with a brass strip.

For value, it depends on the fashion of the day. Giclée prints are sometimes in vogue, sometimes not. This is a high quality print and will last a long time if looked after. I would expect that you might get \$200 - \$250 for it, framed.

All the best,
Susan

Susan R. Ball
www.susanrball.com
www.gratongallery.net