

# 805

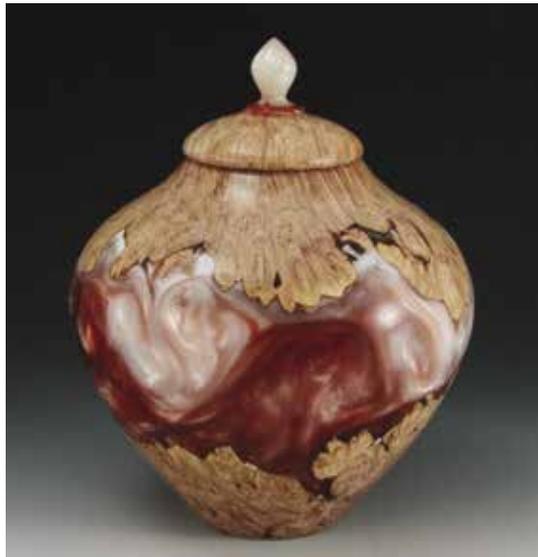
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## Arts & Culture

By Joan Tapper



Budding art collectors can find works in varied media and styles in art collectives and studio galleries throughout the 805 area. On display at Gallery Los Olivos are Neil Andersson's oil *Good Day Sunshine* (above) and a shapely vessel made of maple burl and epoxy resin by Barry Lundgren (left). Holly Beals, an artist at Paso Robles' Studios on the Park, painted *Her Thoughts And Fallen Trees* in mixed media (right).

# Art by Association

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF ART COLLECTIVES, COOPERATIVES, AND STUDIO GALLERIES.

“Everyone should be able to have original art on the wall,” insists watercolorist Martha Inman Lorch. “It has a certain energy.” And as a longtime member and board member of artist-owned **Gallery Los Olivos** (GLO; gallerylosolivos.com), Lorch is an advocate for introducing would-be or beginning collectors to inviting, low-key spaces that showcase high-quality fine art.

She's not alone. Throughout the 805 area, myriad art associations, collectives, and studio galleries offer varied opportunities to meet artists and develop one's eye in a nonintimidating setting. And with the holidays looming, these are great places for gifts—especially for oneself.

A regional gallery, GLO draws its 52 artists from

Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, and they go through a jury process that ensures excellence and a mix of media, approach, and subject matter. No one dictates what an artist can create, but the cooperative business model requires each one to participate in running the gallery—from decision making or pouring wine at a reception to sitting at the desk to field visitors' questions.

In Paso Robles, **Studios on the Park** (studiosonthepark.org) includes access to artists as part of its mission. “There is studio space for 14 resident artists at a reasonable rent,” notes executive director Charles Miller, “and they have to set aside time to work in the gallery. Visitors can talk to them and see how they work. They exhibit there and sell there, and there's a waiting list to get in.” >

The building also houses a retail gallery for associate artists—who offer everything from sculpture and paintings to textiles on consignment—and galleries for works by members of the Paso Robles Art Association, creations of SLO County high school students, and rotating shows.

The **Art Center of Morro Bay** ([artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org)) functions as a community art center run by the art association, notes president Patricia Newton. Dating back to a dozen original members in 1951, the center presents changing exhibitions in its two galleries and hosts workshops and classes.

In Santa Barbara, **10 West Gallery** ([10westgallery.com](http://10westgallery.com)) is another artist-owned cooperative, says Jan Ziegler who founded it six years ago. “We started with 12 hand-picked artists, and now there are 28 members who have been juried in by their peers,” Ziegler says. “We have a professional face with museum-quality



A recent show at 10 West Gallery exhibited paintings by James Petrucci, Mary Neville, and Daniel Linz and ceramics by Patrick Hall.

hung shows.” Each show lasts two months and includes 11 artists at a time—painters and one or two sculptors or ceramists. “These are working artists ready to show,” she adds.

**Gallery 113** ([gallery113sb.com](http://gallery113sb.com)) is a nonprofit that benefits the nearly 600 juried-in members of the Santa Barbara Art Association, says incoming gallery president Linda D. Nelson. “We include a wide range of subjects and techniques,” she says. “With the diversity of art, you can’t tell what will grab someone’s eye.”

A newcomer to the Santa Barbara scene is the **La Cumbre Center for Creative Arts** ([lcccasb.org](http://lcccasb.org)), the brainchild of businessman Mike Cregan, who saw empty storefronts at the mall and envisioned a collection of working artists’ studios. His idea morphed into three allied galleries that opened in November 2019 with space for 24 artists, including working space for some.

Applicants are accepted by a submission committee, which tries to maintain a mix of media and techniques and also ensures that each artist fits in and is willing to put in time running the gallery and meeting visitors. “It’s a tight-knit group,” says Cregan, “and that makes a difference.”

## Art Acquisition Advice

Buying art doesn’t have to be intimidating. It can be a pleasure if you follow these five tips, says Santa Barbara artist, designer, and antique dealer Anne Luther ([anneluther.com](http://anneluther.com)).

**Be Gallery Savvy.** Not all art galleries are alike. If you visit an artist-owned gallery or art collective, you’ll have an opportunity to meet the artists and develop a relationship.

**Surround yourself with what you love.** Rather than buying something just because it matches your room, go with what makes you feel emotionally connected.

**See beyond the packaging.** If you’re drawn to a piece, take a moment to imagine it outside of its current frame. Be sure to include the price of reframing in your budget.

**Have a Plan B.** If the work you want is too expensive, consider smaller works by the same artist, a work on paper rather than a painting, or an unframed piece.

**Shop vintage and antique stores.** Stores like the Summerland Antiques Collective ([summerlandantiquescollective.com](http://summerlandantiquescollective.com)) are filled with art of all kinds. With a keen eye, you just might nab a diamond in the rough.

In Ventura, the nonprofit **Buenaventura Art Association** ([buenaventuraartassociation.org](http://buenaventuraartassociation.org)) maintains two dedicated galleries and spaces in two retail spots where members may exhibit their work. “We have purposefully picked different locations and gallery types to give artists a taste of what the public likes,” says association executive director Sharon Taylor. At the co-op Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, members run the desk seven days a week, while she holds the fort on Friday and Saturday afternoons at Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory.

**Studio Channel Islands** ([studiochannelislands.org](http://studiochannelislands.org)) includes 36 resident artists who are juried in and operate like a cooperative, says executive director Peter Tyas. “They meet every month and share ideas,” he says. “And they’re expected to do free workshops and programs. We ask [applicants] point-blank what they’re willing to do.” In addition, the organization has a members’ gallery for two-month exhibits and a main gallery that accepts wider submissions. “As a nonprofit, we have a way to affect artists’ careers from when they pick up their first brush to when they pick up their first studio key,” says Tyas. ♦



Weaver Regina Vorgang, a resident artist at Studio Channel Islands, created her *Thistle* rug in wool on linen.