

ARTIST  PROFILE

## Gallery 113

*Jane Sun:* An Eye For Natural Beauty

By ANDRIA WATSON / CASA

**F**ROM A LUSH VOLCANIC ISLAND IN TAIWAN and the rolling olive groves of Italy, to the rugged California coastline, Jane Sun's exhibit at Gallery 113, running through June 30th, absorbs all that nature has to offer.

"It's very exciting to paint something no one else has before," shared Sun. "Hopefully my work captures that magical light that can be so profound in nature."

Her show, *Fresh Approach*, consists of oil paintings on small panels depicting scenes of the Carpinteria Bluffs, Ruffugio St. Park, the coast, and other glimpses into nature that have caught Sun's eye. Also, limited edition prints will be available.



Jane Sun

"I'm very proud of myself not only because I'm living my dream, but because I've had to overcome obstacles. Most people have no idea I'm color blind," Sun said. "I've struggled with it, but I think sometimes my mistakes in color turn out to be my unique advantages."

Born in Taiwan on the volcanic island called Formosa, which means "beautiful island," Sun was surrounded by an abundance of tropical nature and wildlife while growing up. It instilled a passion and enthusiasm for the beauty of untouched land and sea.

Sun moved to Ohio in to finish graduate school, where she received her Masters Degree in Library and Computer Science, and went on to become a Computer Programmer for the next 25 years while living in San Diego. She



Age-old Alleyway, Cortona by Jane Sun

moved to Santa Barbara in 1989.

Last year, Sun decided to make art her full time job. "I started painting about ten years ago by taking Adult Education classes at Santa Barbara City College," she explained. "I had originally taken art classes in my spare time to ease my mind that was full of logic, numbers, and stress from my computer job. Now art has become much more than a relaxing hobby, it's my life."

Last spring, Sun travelled to Tuscany to participate in a seven day workshop, *Poscana Americana*, taught by Patrick Mahoney.

"We were only there for a week, but there was no time wasted. The group painted from 9 to 6pm every day. Some of the paintings I made there will also be at the gallery," Sun said. The exhibit includes oils of Italian olive groves, a fishing village, a monastery, and the famous red-tiled villas.

Some of Sun's favorite places to paint are Lake Los Caneros, the Riviera, and the 'jewel of the Gaviota Coast,' Arroyo Hondo. She'll sometimes drive until she finds a place that "takes her breath away," to the point where she has to pull over, unload her gear, and go to work.

Sun is a S.C.A.P.E member, an organization of plein air painters dedicated to protecting the environment.

Her mentors include Oak Group members Marcia Burt, Glenna Hartmann, and Rick Schloss. "They have taught me so much," shared Sun.

"There is a drive inside me that will not let me ignore what I see, and my ability to share that vision with others," Sun expressed. "Like Van Gogh, I just have to do it."



Tuscany Sunset by Jane Sun

Gallery 113 is located at 1114 State St. For information call 965-6611.